



**NO-SNOW
WOE
FORGET
THE
WHITE
STUFF
THIS
YULETIDE**
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DRAGON FORCE

METRO TALKS TO STARS OF NEW THRILLER

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LONDON

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Weekend,
December 16-18, 2011
www.metronews.ca



News worth sharing.



Fa-la-la-la-la. La-la-la-la

► Doctors Alex Louie, Scott Ernst, Kylea Potvin, Muriel Brackstone and Maria Parent sing Christmas carols Thursday at the London Health Sciences Centre. Known as the Clinic Notes, the musical oncologists have teamed up to deliver a seasonal concert for patients, staff and visitors for the past three years. Also included in the group, but not pictured, are oncologists David D'Souza and Michael Sanatani.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Hitting a high note at hospital's annual Christmas concert

Doctor aims to change cancer care

► London patients being accepted for study ► But researcher says trial has strict criteria and 'isn't for everybody'



**ANGELA
MULLINS**
@METRONEWS.CA

A local doctor has set out to cure the incurable.

That may be the easiest way to explain an international medical trial headed by Dr. David Palma, a radiation oncologist with the London Regional Cancer Program and a researcher at Lawson Health Research Institute.

"What we're trying to do in this study is take patients who

have had cancer spread ... and treat them with this very precise high-dose radiation," Palma said about the \$100,000 trial, funded mostly by the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research.

Palma and others hope to prove that cancer can be stopped even if it has spread throughout the body.

Traditionally, doctors have approached the disease in one of two ways, Palma said: Cancer that is localized — meaning there's a tumour in only one part of the

Joining the study

► Among the criteria for participating in the trial, patients must be relatively physically fit and they must have received treatment for their original cancer but now have tumours in other areas.

body — is considered curable and is treated through surgery, radiation, chemo or a combination of the three.

Cancer that has spread — say

it started in the lungs and tumours have cropped up in the colon or bones — is considered incurable. In that case, doctors generally treat a patient with chemotherapy and low-dose radiation to slow the spread.

Palma's study aims to prove that cancer "probably isn't an all-or-nothing situation." Instead of simply managing a case of cancer that has spread, the new treatment literally "zaps" tiny tumours with intense radioactive therapy.

London-area doctors have been testing the treatment with patients for the past couple of years, Palma said. While the results have been promising, an all-out clinical trial is needed to prove the method can work, he said.

The trial — which will include test cases in Europe, British Columbia and at least one Ontario city — will work with 99 patients over four years. Half of them are expected to come from London.

1 news



Facebook's much-hyped Timeline feature, which promises to turn profiles into scrapbooks, has gone live. Scan the code for the story.

To scan 2D barcodes in Metro, download the free ScanLife app at 2dscan.com.

On the web at metronews.ca

Baby Melinda, one of the smallest infants ever born, is alive and well — and defying the odds. Video at metronews.ca/video

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Petes down the Knights

Peterborough goaltender Mike Morrison made 30 saves and was the first star of the game Thursday as the Petes defeated the London Knights, 5-3, at the Memorial Centre.

Vladislav Namestnikov — stopped on a penalty shot by Morrison in the second period — led London with a goal and an assist. Seth Griffin and Andreas Athanasiou had the other London goals. Goaltender Michael Houser made 27 saves for the Knights.

In other news, London defenceman Olli Maatta and left-winger Athanasiou were named to Team Orr for the CHL/NHL Top Prospects Game. The game will take place Feb. 1 in Kelowna, BC.

Maatta, in his first season with the Knights, was the top pick in the 2011 CHL Import Draft. Athanasiou, a sophomore from Woodbridge, is in his second season with the Knights. ● METRO

Man charged in decades-old sexual assault

A 41-year-old man has been charged with sexual assault in a case that dates back to the 1990s involving one alleged victim under the age of 14.

Majid Abbasy of Hamilton has been charged with sexual assault, sexual interference and sexual touching. ● METRO



► Kathryn Callahan, left, sells Danna Coates, 65, of Wellesley, a little something to stave off her sweet tooth Thursday afternoon at Sweet Cakes London.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Satisfying a sweet tooth

Coates was in town to visit her grandson and had no intention of leaving without making a stop at the cupcake shop in the Covent Garden Market. Dec. 15 is National Cupcake Day.

Getting people engaged

- Mayor Joe Fontana uses 'webinar' to launch mayorfontana.ca
- Website aimed at getting people involved with city issues



ANGELA MULLINS
@METRONEWS.CA

Touching on everything from transit to reinvigorating downtown, Mayor Joe Fontana took more than an hour Thursday to chat with Londoners.

Billed as a virtual town hall meeting to review his first year in office, Fontana spent more time answering questions than giving a re-

port card or laying out plans for the future.

Over and over again, he stressed the importance of being ready to seize investment opportunities and get creative when it comes to financial challenges.

Here are some of his responses to issues raised by people watching the webcast.

Transit: City officials and those at the London Transit Commission need to find a

way to improve bus service for people working in the east and south. The mayor suggested shuttle buses might be an option.

Downtown: "The rhythm of the downtown needs to be much more like a boogie than a waltz. ... We're going to turn it into a people place. It's going to take time. I can't do it all in a year."

1 per cent development levy: The proposed tax is

key to leveraging investment. "The levy is one way of making sure that we have the money, that we are prepared for the future, that we are confident and investing in ourselves."

2012 Budget: The mayor remains optimistic that city officials can whittle down a proposed property-tax increase before Feb. 21. Budgets are about "investing in the future... Not just about spending."

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White Christmas? Keep dreaming

► Christmas Day could be more of a sloppy mix, meteorologist says
► November-December weather data proves this is all a bit screwy



ANGELA MULLINS
@METRONEWS.CA

Try these Environment Canada stats on for size.

Average December temperature in London: -3 C. This year's average: 0.6 C.

Long-term December snowfall average: A little more than 50 centimetres. So far this month: 10.5 centimetres.

You don't have to be a mathematician or a weather nut to figure this one out — London and

southern Ontario are stuck in an unseasonably warm, anything-but-snowy rut.

Even the experts are a bit bamboozled.

"It's hard to get your head around ... as I look out the window here with green grass ... and the sun shining," meteorologist Geoff Coulson said Thursday from his Toronto office. "I honestly think I could grab my clubs and ... (hit) a golf course."

So what's behind these Christmas-spirit killing weather? Several small



► A sign in Victoria Park sums up the impact of the week's mild, rainy weather. The city's skating rinks were officially closed Thursday morning as the ice began to thin and raindrops danced in puddles.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

White Christmas?

Environment Canada figures showing the chance of snow on Christmas Day from 1964 to 1982 (blue), and 1993 to 2009 (green).

	THEN	NOW
London:	74%	67%
Calgary:	74%	47%
Winnipeg:	63%	47%
Montreal:	79%	68%
Ottawa:	79%	79%
Saskatoon:	79%	32%
Toronto:	67%	37%
Vancouver:	21%	11%



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KATIE NAUS/FOR METRO

Mild weather adds up to city savings

There's a magic number floating around some parts of city hall these days: \$750,000.

That's about how much is left in this year's snow-removal budget of \$12 million.

For John Parsons, manager of transportation and roadside operations, an unseasonably warm November and December has helped make up for raucous winter weather during January, February and March.

It's also landed the city in a much better spot than this time last year. Thanks largely to snowmageddon — a four-day snowstorm that started

Dec. 5 — the city's snow-removal budget ended 2010 about \$1.1 million in the red.

Snowplows have been on standby since Dec. 1 this year — but none have been dispatched, Parsons said. Salt and sand trucks, at the ready since November, have been out a couple of times.

While Environment Canada isn't expecting any big weather surprises in the near future, Parsons isn't counting a budget surplus before it hatches.

"A couple of snowstorms, that (\$750,000) would go in a hurry," he said. ● ANGELA MULLINS

things, Coulson said, but the jet stream can be given much of the credit.

The stream — which separates hot and cold air — generally has dipped below the southern Great Lakes by this time of year, teeing-up London and company for freezing temperatures. This year, it seems Mother Nature has fallen asleep at the wheel,

leaving the jet stream hanging around northern Lake Huron.

That means bitter cold air from the north is staying there instead of blowing through and cooking up snowstorms.

Coulson and others don't really know how long the trend will last.

Thursday's high was recorded at nearly 13 C in

London — almost matching a record set in 1971 — and weekend highs are expected to hover around freezing.

Those temperatures are likely to continue into next week, Coulson said, making London's chance for a white Christmas pretty darn slim.

"It's not looking good for the area," he said.

London-area snow

► **70 centimetres:** Average for November and December.

► **13.5 centimetres:** This year's November-December tally.

Source: Environment Canada

Please, oh please!



We asked Londoners through social media how the warm weather was affecting their holiday spirit. Here's what you said:

- **@DayaCounseling:** It's not Christmas without the snow! I'd like this weather in January...but in December I want to see some snow! :) ^NS
- **@NikkeSass:** The rain is sucking all the fun out of Christmas. I'd much rather have snow. It's pretty, quiet, & fun to build junk with.
- **@antimony27:** Warm weather is surreal, but I doubt its hurting the shopping this season! #xmasin-julyindecember
- **@LondonONShopper:** I think neither weather or presents make christmas-its

the ppl. less snow means getting to the ppl who make christmas merry

Facebook:

- **Aislinn Elisabeth Elo:** It's not Christmas without the snow!
- **Erika Faust:** It hasn't dampened my spirit at all! Christmas isn't about snow, it's about spending time with family (and PRESENTS!).
- **Charlene Cory:** hoping for snow soon to get my butt moving...its not the same when you can push the cart outside...the treading through knee high snow with goodies is a Canadian Christmas.
- **MaryAnne Robertson:** PLEASE OH PLEASE SNOW!!!!!!
- **Sammy Lucio:** I can't believe it's almost Christmas, I'm not a winter person but without snow it doesn't feel like Christmas time.

Plows have snow-where to go



What's a beleaguered snowplow operator to do these days?

Christmas shopping, of course.

Dan Bucci, owner of C-More Snow Removal, was doing just that Thursday as steady rain fell in the Forest City.

"Most of the guys have the plows on the trucks, but they haven't done anything yet," Bucci said, noting that means no paycheques.

"They're mostly just rusted to the ground at this point."

Plow jobs make up about 70 per cent of Bucci's business. For him, warm weather and no snow means the bills, like insurance, keep coming in but revenue is falling short.

By this time last year, Bucci's crews had logged 110 hours on the road. This year, they haven't even been out. "We do have contracts that pay us by the season. ... But, some of our hourly job are the biggest ones." ● ANGELA MULLINS



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City even more dangerous: Stats

► London doesn't fare well in recent crime survey

London has been named the fourth most dangerous city in Ontario, according to a new study published by Macleans magazine.



The survey is compiled using 2010 annual crime data from Stats Canada for municipal police services serving the country's 100 largest populations, and examines six categories: Aggravated assault, robbery, homicide, breaking and entering, auto theft, and sexual assault.

Among Ontario cities, Belleville, Thunder Bay and Brantford were ranked as

more dangerous than London. The previous year, London was ranked Ontario's fifth most dangerous city. Across Canada, London was ranked 30th, up from 31st the previous year.

The main factors responsible for pushing London's ranking higher appear to be homicide, robbery, and breaking and entering. The study shows London had 1.9 homicides per 100,000 people, or 13.8 per cent above the national average. There were 639 break and enters per 100,000 people, or 10.9 per cent above the national average, and 99 robberies per 100,000 people — 11.1 per cent above the national average.

London was 3.4 per cent below the national average for sexual assaults, 15.5 per cent below average for aggravated assaults, and about even on auto thefts.

There is cause for optimism, however. The survey finds London's overall crime rate in the six categories, is down 12.3 per cent since 2005 and 18.6 per cent from 2000.

The most dangerous cities in the country were located mostly in Alberta, Saskatchewan and B.C. with Prince George and Victoria finishing first and second overall respectively. The safest cities were Caledon, Wellington County and Halton Region.

AM980/AM980.CA

Downtown. Art



► Rick Daly, 53, looks over some of his soapstone creations Thursday on Dundas Street near Richmond Street.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Carved in soapstone

Rick Daly often can be found working with soapstone along downtown streets. He picked up the art as a child and recently added beading to his bag of tricks.

Charges laid after Project Marvel arrests

Two people of the three arrested in London as part of the nationwide Project Marvel organized by Toronto police have been charged.

Stefan Burns, 23, of Ajax faces drug trafficking and other charges. Krystal Panzavechia, 22, of London has been charged with two counts of conspiracy to commit an indictable offence.

Just before dawn on Tuesday, London police searched addresses on Wavell Street and Covent Market Place as part of Project Marvel, an investigation into alleged drug and gang activity.

All three people arrested in London were transported to Toronto.

● METRO

27 The number of firearms seized in the London portion of Project Marvel.

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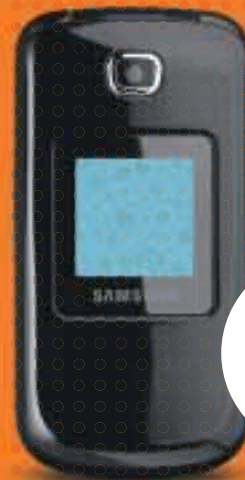


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The doctor is in ... a big crowd

► A record number of MDs working, report says ► Glut may be looming

The number of practising doctors in Canada is at an all-time high.

Nearly 70,000 active physicians were working in the country last year, a new report shows.

The report — released Thursday by the Canadian Institute for Health Information — suggests the doctor shortage of a few years ago is being resolved.

The country may even be heading toward a glut if the supply of doctors isn't better managed, the report suggests.

"We have the short-term glasses on right now. We need to maybe put the long-term glasses on," said Arthur Sweetman, a health economist and a member of CHEPA — the Centre for Health Economics and Poli-

35%
There were 203 physicians for every 100,000 Canadians in 2010, up 35 per cent from the rate in 1980.

cy Analysis — at McMaster University in Hamilton.

Another report by the health statistics agency said the average family doctor grossed \$239,000 in 2010.

The average specialist's gross income was \$341,000.

But these gross incomes cover not just the doctor's salary, but the cost of running his or her office as well.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Homecoming. Afghan stint ends



► Capt. Steph Barteaux is hugged by her dad, Bruce, and mom, Bonnie, after arriving in Ottawa on Thursday.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Soldier returns to family's loving arms

The sign says it all: Welcome home — and thanks for a job well done. Brig.-Gen. Charles Lamaree and his staff arrived at the Canadian Reception Centre in Ottawa on Thursday, ending their stint in Afghanistan. They were the last Canadian soldiers to leave Kandahar, signifying the close of Operation ATHENA, Canada's longest combat mission in Afghanistan. Now Canada is concentrating on a training mission in Kabul.

MacKay lived like a king in Europe, group says

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is accusing Defence Minister Peter MacKay of living like a king while attending conferences in Europe.

The watchdog group said Thursday it used access-to-information requests to uncover hotel bills that show MacKay spent \$1,452 a night for a two-night stay at a luxury hotel in Munich and \$770 a night for three nights in Istanbul.

Gregory Thomas, national director of the taxpayers group, says the bills go beyond what most people would consider reasonable.

But the federation's complaints may be misdirected.

MacKay was attending an annual security conference, held at Munich's Hotel Bayerischer Hof in February 2010.

Senior federal officials said MacKay stayed at the



► A new fuss for Peter MacKay: He's accused of high spending while in Europe.

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

hotel at the request of the German government, along with all other heads of delegation.

"The organizers wanted and insisted upon that," said a Foreign Affairs source.

Thomas said his group decided to file an access request after it was revealed MacKay had an air force helicopter pick him up from a Newfoundland fishing lodge.

"Going on the basis

\$276

The CTF's Thomas pointed out MacKay's staff had rooms in the same Munich hotel for \$276 a night.

there's never only one cockroach, we just thought we'd, you know, look at some ... of the minister's other travel expenses."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nannies get a break

Ottawa is making it easier for foreign nannies to get open work permits.

People can now hire live-in caregivers when there are no Canadians available for the jobs.

They have to work for

3,900 hours or two years and then they can apply for permanent-resident status. The change gives open work permits when they complete the two-year obligation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bikers face a tax bill

Here's one foe that not even the biggest, burliest biker can count on outmuscling: The taxman.

A Hells Angels chapter — already embroiled in

criminal charges and legal proceedings — is now also on the hook for back taxes on its \$350,000 hangout.

The organization has been ordered by a municipal judge to pay back \$25,000 plus interest on its sprawling property in Trois-Rivières, Que.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tot's slain mom ID'd

A B.C. woman shot dead in her luxury SUV — while a toddler sat in the back seat, has been identified.

Mother of four Thuy Yen Vu, 38 — also called Jenny — was shot multiple times in a quiet Vancouver

neighbourhood.

Her three-year-old son was taken into government care.

"We believe it's targeted," police Const. Lindsay Houghton said Thursday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Weather could make enemies of polar bears

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

They're etched onto our coins, are part of our national identity and lure tourists to the Arctic every year, but the majestic Canadian polar bear could pose a significant risk to northern communities if climate change continues to wreak havoc on its natural habitat.

"It's potentially quite serious in terms of human-

bear interactions," says Ian Stirling, an Edmonton-based scientist with the Canadian Wildlife Service who has studied polar bears for 41 years.

"It's a big problem in northern communities, it already is. They're killing 30, 40, 50 problem bears a year in the Canadian Arctic because they're threatening human life or

property."

The adjunct professor at the University of Alberta wants to drive home the point that action is needed to combat the climate change, which has the potential to turn the typically mild-mannered mammals into a risk.

In his new book, *Polar Bears: The Natural History of a Threatened Species*,

Stirling says the biggest threat to the bears is an increasingly warming climate, which is causing earlier and more widespread melting of northern sea ice.

The ice is crucial to the bears because it serves as a hunting platform to access their primary food sources — particularly ringed seal pups. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

▶ A polar bear mother and her two cubs walk along the shore of Hudson Bay near Churchill, Man., in this Nov. 7, 2007, photo.



U.S. marks end of mission in Iraq

PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/POOL/AP PHOTOS

▶ Troops end presence with small service ▶ Iraqis' future uncertain

There was no Mission Accomplished banner. No victory parade down the centre of this capital scarred and rearranged by nearly nine years of war. No crowds of cheering Iraqis grateful for liberation from Saddam Hussein.

Instead, the U.S. military officially declared an end to its mission in Iraq on Thursday with a businesslike closing ceremony behind blast walls in a fortified compound at Baghdad airport. The flag used by U.S. forces in Iraq was lowered and boxed up in a 45-minute ceremony. No senior Iraqi political figures attended.

With that, and brief words from top American officials who flew in under tight security still necessary because of the ongoing violence in Iraq, the U.S. drew the curtain on a war that left 4,500 Americans and more than 100,000 Iraqis dead.

The conflict also left an-

other 32,000 Americans and far more Iraqis wounded, drained more than \$800 billion from America's treasury and soured a majority of Americans on a war many initially supported as a just extension of the fight against terrorism after the 9-11 attacks.

As the last troops withdraw from Iraq, they leave behind a nation free of Saddam's tyranny but fractured by violence and fearful of the future. Bombings and gun battles are still common. And experts are concerned about the Iraqi security forces' ability to defend the nation against foreign threats.

"You will leave with great pride — lasting pride," Defence Secretary Leon Panetta told troops in the airport complex. "Secure in knowing that your sacrifice has helped the Iraqi people to begin a new chapter in history."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ U.S. Command Sgt. Major Joseph R. Allen, left, and U.S. army Gen. Lloyd Austin, commander of U.S. Forces Iraq, wrap up a flag used by the U.S. forces in Iraq during a ceremony in Baghdad on Thursday.

Reaction

- ▶ Some Iraqis celebrated the exit of what they called American occupiers, neither invited nor welcome in a proud country.
- ▶ Others said that while grateful for U.S. help ousting Saddam, the war went on too long. A majority of Americans would agree, according to opinion polls.
- ▶ "With this withdrawal, the Americans are leaving behind a destroyed country," said Mariam Khazim, a Shiite whose father was killed by a mortar shell.
- ▶ "The Americans did not leave modern schools or big factories behind them. Instead, they left thousands of widows and orphans. The Americans did not leave a free people and country behind them; in fact, they left a ruined country and a divided nation."
- ▶ "The American ceremony represents the failure of the U.S. occupation of Iraq due to the great resistance of the Iraqi people," said lawmaker Amir al-Kinani.

U.S. agency's stand on cells kicks up fuss

When someone is talking to you, your brain is listening, processing and thinking about what is being said — even if you are in the driver's seat trying to concentrate on traffic.

That is why drivers get distracted during cellphone conversations, even when using hands-free phones, researchers say. It is also part of the reason why the

National Transportation Safety Board made a recommendation this week it knows a lot of drivers will not like — that states ban hands-free, as well as handheld, cellphone use while driving. It is not where your hands are, but where your mind is that counts, NTSB chairman Deborah Hersman told reporters.

The board does not have

Complaints

- ▶ The proposed hands-free ban has generated much controversy.
- ▶ What is next? No passengers? No kids? No tuning the radio? Maybe NTSB will ban driving altogether, was the tenor of the response on Twitter.

the power to force states to impose a ban, but its recommendations carry significant weight. And, judging from the public reaction, they have already started a national conversation on the subject. NTSB has been swamped with calls, emails and tweets from drivers both praising and condemning the action.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

Toll evader gets lucky

REDUCED SENTENCE. China says a man originally sentenced to life in prison for evading highway tolls has had his punishment reduced. He was accused of evading more than \$560,000 in highway cargo tolls by mounting fake

military plates on his trucks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Man sues over dead dogs

DOGGY DEATH. A military contractor has filed a lawsuit claiming negligence over 14 bomb-sniffing dogs found dead inside an unventilated truck last year as they awaited shipment to Afghanistan.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rebels kill 27 soldiers as Syria violence spikes

► Attacks could lead to new cycle of escalation: Expert ► Damascus' former ambassador to Sweden flees to Turkey to join opposition



► This amateur footage from TV made available by a group called Ugarit News on Thursday shows what appears to be a Syrian tank on fire, in Homs, Syria, as gunfire rings out. The tank then apparently exploded. According to information released with this video, members of the al-Farouq brigade blew up the tank. The brigade is part of the Free Syrian Army and reportedly made up of Syrian army defectors.

Army defectors killed 27 government forces on Thursday in apparently coordinated attacks that were among the deadliest by rebel troops since the uprising began nine months ago.

The fighting began around daybreak in the southern province of Daraa, where the uprising against President Bashar al-Assad's authoritarian regime began in March.

Syria has seen a sharp escalation in armed clashes recently, raising concerns the country of 22 million is headed toward civil war.

Sanctions by Western powers, Turkey and the

Arab League have added to the growing pressure on al-Assad from within Syria. U.S. State Department official Frederic Hof told Congress on Wednesday that al-Assad's repression may allow him to hang on to power, but only for a short time.

Still, the regime could exploit the escalation of armed attacks by military defectors to escalate the crackdown with full force on pockets of defectors concentrated in Daraa and the northwestern province of Idlib that borders Turkey.

Defectors from the Free Syrian Army, whose leaders are based in exile in

neighbouring Turkey, fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a bus carrying policemen into the town of Busra al-Harir on Thursday, killing 12 officers, an activist based nearby said.

That set off clashes with an accompanying force of soldiers. The defectors killed 13 of them, said the activist, who would only agree to be identified by his first name, Omar, for fear of retribution.

The fighters then killed two more soldiers in an attack on a checkpoint, he said.

Busra al-Harir is home to about 300 army defectors who have been clashing with regime forces

which he says are "counter-productive."

Several council members, including the representatives of France and Germany, say they believe an arms embargo and tougher language are necessary, and hope to negotiate

didn't go far enough.

Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin says the text urges an end to the violence that the UN estimates has killed more than 5,000 people over nine months. But Churkin says the text doesn't mention sanctions,

Russia initiative aims to end fighting

Russia says it has circulated among other UN Security Council members the draft of a new resolution aimed at reducing the violence in Syria.

Although several council members welcomed the initiative Thursday, they said it

Orders to kill

► **New York-based Human Rights Watch** said Thursday that dozens of military commanders and officials authorized or gave direct orders for widespread killings and torture.

► **The 88-page report** by the group is based on more than 60 interviews with defectors from the Syrian military and intelligence agencies. It identifies 74 commanders and officials behind the alleged abuse.

daily for nearly a week, he said. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

with Russia to strengthen the proposal.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime has grown more isolated as mounting international sanctions punish the government's bloody crackdown.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadians urged to get out of Syria

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The federal government is again urging Canadians to get out of Syria while they still can.

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird says it is becoming increasingly difficult for Canadian diplomats and consular officials to do their jobs under restrictions imposed by President Bashar al-Assad.

"We are declaring a voluntary evacuation of all Canadians in Syria," Baird said. "We will provide specialized consular services to those who wish to leave."

"Our embassy in Damascus is also available to assist Canadians in Syria, as



"The time to leave Syria is now."

JOHN BAIRD,
FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER

well as their spouses and their dependent children with the needed travel documents (and) visas, between now and Jan. 14, 2012." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

KILLER BREW

Bootleg liquor kills 143 in India

Bootleg liquor containing toxic methanol killed 143 people and sickened dozens more who drank the cheap, illicit brew bought at small shops in eastern India, officials said Thursday. Police arrested 10 suspected bootleggers.

Emergency medical teams rushed to the vil-

lage outside Kolkata, and thousands of relatives, many of them wailing in grief, gathered outside the packed hospital. Inside, bodies lay on the floor covered in quilts, while the sick waited on staircases to be treated. Groups of men sat in the halls with saline drips running into their arms.

Illegal liquor operations flourish in the slums of urban India and among the rural poor who can't afford the alcohol at state-sanctioned shops.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Another letter bomb intercepted

Police say they have intercepted another letter bomb at the offices of Italy's tax collection agency.

The bomb was intercepted Thursday at an Equitalia office near the centre of Rome.

A police official speaking on customary condition of anonymity said agents were working to defuse the explosive.

The director of the office was injured last Friday when he opened an envelope addressed to him containing explosives.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tunisia leader vows change

Tunisia's newly elected president said he is prepared to resign if life in the country has not improved after six months.

In an interview on state TV late Wednesday, Moncef Marzouki called for patience while the new government got the country back on track after a year of upheaval marked by strikes and demonstrations. "After this period, you can hold us accountable and I am ready to resign" if the situation hasn't changed, he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED NATIONS

UN official promotes gay rights

The UN's top human rights official urged countries Thursday to abolish legal discrimination against gays, days after the U.S. government said it would use foreign aid and diplomacy to promote gay equal rights.

The UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, said governments should also outlaw all forms of abuse based on sexual orientation.

Pillay's appeal came in a report released Thursday to the 47-nation UN Human Rights Council, which in June passed the global body's first resolution condemning anti-gay discrimination. That vote was hailed by the U.S. but decried by some Muslim nations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia scrambles to save whales

Russian agencies are trying to save some 100 beluga whales — an endangered species — that are trapped among large

chunks of polar ice floating in the frigid Bering Sea.

Russia's nature protection watchdog says there is a chance that the whales might perish. Authorities say the ice is 10-15 centimetres thick and is preventing the whales from reaching the open sea where they can swim freely.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taking to the television

ALEXEI NIKOLSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin listens to a question during a national call-in TV show in Moscow on Thursday.

► Putin, opposition give no ground amid unprecedented wave of discontent over recent Russian vote

Sharp-tongued and defiant, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin denounced those protesting vote fraud as stooges of the West and insisted that Russia's national election was valid. His opponents were undeterred.

In a four-and-a-half-hour marathon call-in show on national TV, Putin aimed to erect a bulwark against a rising wave of discontent. But his disdainful tone appeared likely to only fuel more protests, after a fraud-tainted parliamentary vote Dec. 4 sparked the largest public anger Russia has seen in a generation.

He dismissed opposition claims that vote fraud had given Putin's United Russia party a majority of the

3,500

In a telling display of anger, the number of people who signed up on Facebook to go to the Dec. 24 rally increased from 18,000 to 21,500 just in the hours Putin was speaking.

seats in parliament.

The opposition was not mollified.

"The boorish, disdainful attitude toward the people that Putin demonstrated in today's television show was obvious," said Boris Nemtsov, a prominent opposition leader, in a blog post after the show.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Samsung Galaxy Ace



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Heritage Place
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Lambton Mall
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Dufferin Mall

Eastgate Square
Erin Mills Town Centre
Fairview Mall
Markville Shopping Centre
Masonville Place
New Sudbury Centre
Northgate Shopping Centre
Oakville Place
Oshawa Centre

Lime Ridge Mall
Lynden Park Mall
Mapleview Shopping Centre
Markville Shopping Centre
Masonville Place
New Sudbury Centre
Northgate Shopping Centre
Oakville Place
Oshawa Centre

Pen Centre
Pickering Town Centre
Scarborough Town Centre
Seaway Mall
Sheppard Centre
Sherway Gardens
Square One
Station Mall
Stone Road Mall

Tecumseh Mall
The Promenade
Toronto Eaton Centre
Union Station
Upper Canada Mall
Vaughan Mills
White Oaks Mall
Woodbine Centre
Yorkdale Mall

(1) Bonus gift will vary by store location. See store for full details. On new activations only; while quantities last. Android is a trademark of Google Inc. Use of this trademark is subject to Google Permissions. BlackBerry, RIM, Research In Motion and related trademarks, names and logos are the property of Research In Motion Limited and are registered and/or used in the U.S. and countries around the world.

China. Choco-chic



► A model shows off clothing partially made of chocolate during a chocolate fashion show in Shanghai, China, on Thursday.

EUGENE HOSHIK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fashioned from chocolate

More than money at stake in developing Arctic: Report

► Melting of permafrost due to climate change affecting infrastructure

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE



► A speed-limit sign along the road near the Meadowbank gold mine in Nunavut.

Governments and businesses are being advised they must look beyond immediate economic benefits when it comes to paying for roads, ports and rail lines in the Arctic.

The Conference Board of Canada said in a report released Thursday that even though such projects are more expensive to build and maintain than they would be in the south, they're still worth it.

"If you've got an all-weather road into a community, it's a lot easier and cheaper to get goods and people into and out of those communities than if you're dependent on a winter road that's only open for an increasingly short number of weeks," said David Stewart-Patterson, the think-tank's vice-president. "But it's not just about

access to economic opportunities. It's access to essential public services."

Canada's North is poorly served by transportation infrastructure. Aside from private roads built for specific resource projects, Nunavut

has only 21 kilometres of all-weather road in the entire territory. It has only one harbour, despite the fact almost all its communities are along shorelines.

The northern reaches of the provinces face similar

limitations. The report says 25,000 people in northern Manitoba depend entirely on winter roads, the season for which is shrinking yearly. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Market moment

TSX

↓
- 38.63
(11,504.42)

Dollar

↑
+ \$0.36¢
(96.55¢ US)

Oil

↓
- \$1.08 US
(\$93.87 US)

Natural gas

\$3.127 US
(- 0.9¢ US)

Gold

\$1,577.20 US
(- 9.70 US)

PHOTOS BY S.P.M. THOMPSON

Another jump towards a sellers' market

Canadian home sales and prices jumped again in November but the number of listings dropped off, pushing the sector closer to a sellers' market that could boost competition for a sparse selection of homes.

Home resales rose six per cent last month on a year-over-year basis and jumped 0.5 per cent on a seasonally adjusted basis compared to October levels, the Canadian Real Estate Association said Thursday.

November marked the third straight month that national activity on its Multiple Listing Service was up from the one before. The national average price increased 4.6 per cent year-over-year to \$360,396.

And while prices continue to rise, CREA noted that November's increase was the smallest jump since January. Meanwhile, the number of newly listed homes was down 3.4 per cent from October to November — the largest sin-



► People walk past new homes that are for sale in Oakville, Ont.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

gle-month decline of the year.

"The national housing market remains balanced, but is edging closer to seller's-market territory," the association said in a release.

The latest signs pointing toward a market that favours sellers stand in stark contrast to predictions earlier this year that demand would drop off, giving buyers a break from rapidly rising prices.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Household debt

► Heavy borrowing activity signals dark clouds on the horizon for some households as debt reaches record levels — as much as 153 per cent of disposable incomes, according to data released earlier this week.

► The most over-leveraged Canadians could find themselves unable to cope when interest rates eventually rise, federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney have warned.

EU can go green at lower cost: Report

A new report says the European Union can cut its emissions of greenhouse gases dramatically by 2050, while possibly spending less money than if it continued its current energy policies.

That is based on an estimate that the new clean-energy infrastructure required would cost more but in the

end the cost of energy would be less.

The EU has committed itself to reducing emissions by more than 80 per cent by 2050.

The European Climate Foundation called the report "an important step forward in helping the EU create a decarbonized economy." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Canada Post No. 8 in G20

Oxford Strategic Consulting of Britain says Canada Post takes the No. 8 spot in its ranking of postal services in the G20 countries.

The ranking is based on postal service providers' performance over the three years from 2008-10 looking at access to services, efficiency and perform-



GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

ance.

The U.S. Postal Service took the No. 1 spot, followed by Japan Post, Australia Post and Korea Post. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Board sets rules for Arctic drilling

Canada's energy regulator has released its review of the rules under which companies would be allowed to drill in Arctic waters.

The National Energy Board says companies would still have to promptly drill a relief well to help contain any blowouts in the sensitive waters of the Beaufort Sea.

But it suggests it would be open to alternative measures in any applications to drill offshore.

No requests are currently before the board, but dozens of exploration and discovery licences have been granted for the waters off Canada's northwest coast.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Pensioners demonstrate against austerity measures in central Athens on Thursday.

Greek workers stage walkout

► IMF urges Greece to fire excess public servants and impose further cuts to make economy more competitive

Greek civil servants walked off the job for three hours on Thursday to protest austerity measures that include pension and salary cuts and the suspension of tens of thousands of workers on partial pay.

The work stoppage was to leave hospitals with emergency staff and shut down other public services from noon to 3 p.m. About 1,000 pensioners marched through central Athens to protest outside

Parliament.

Prime Minister Lucas Papademos, meanwhile, was meeting with Greece's debt inspectors from the International Monetary Fund, European Central Bank and European Commission.

The country is negotiating the terms of a second massive rescue package, worth \$169 billion US, with the eurozone and private bondholders.

On Wednesday, the IMF's top official in

Greece urged the country to fire excess public servants and impose further cuts on workers' pay rights to reduce the size of the public sector and make the economy more competitive.

Poul Thomsen warned the government it would not be able to reduce its high budget deficits unless it focused on spending cuts, arguing that the country's taxpayers had reached the limit.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TECH TROUBLES

RIM profits plummet as brutal year continues

The Icarus-like return to reality for Research In Motion, once the high-flying darling of Canada's high-tech sector, showed no signs of slowing Thursday as the troubled smartphone maker reported another quarter

of dramatically lower profits.

The company sold millions more BlackBerrys in the last year and now has 75 million subscribers around the world, a 35 per cent increase from a year ago. But net profits plunged to \$265 million US, a far cry from \$911 million for the same period last year.

The company has had a difficult 2011, cutting 2,000 jobs and suffering a worldwide BlackBerry outage that tarnished its reputation

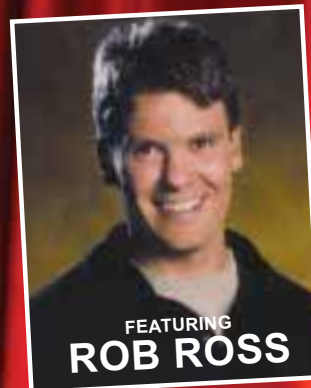
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Monti faces austerity resistance

Italian Premier Mario Monti is facing serious resistance from three tenacious forces: global financial markets, Italian politicians and Italian labour unions.

Monti has already issued his austerity and growth measures as an emergency decree, but Parliament must approve it in a vote called for this weekend. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

YOU NOW HAVE A MUCH NICER PLACE TO PEE YOUR PANTS



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@ 8:00PM

FRIDAY DEC 16
@ 7:30PM & 10:30PM

SATURDAY DEC 17
@ 7:30PM & 10:30PM

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THE METRO LIST

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO



We're makin' a list, checkin' it twice. So you're gonna find out who's naughty and nice ... which is especially important this time of year.

1 Justin Trudeau has been very naughty. The son of former Prime Potty Mouth Pierre Trudeau (remember "fuddle duddle"?), demonstrates that the rotten apple doesn't fall very far from the tree as he loses it in question period and refers to Environment Minister Peter Kent as the four-letter version of a piece of excrement. At least he's efficient.

2 Canadians confirm they are the world's most boring people by making the census and Canada Post their two fastest-rising Google searches. While the rest of the world made 14-year-old pop curiosity Rebecca Black their fastest-rising search for Friday, dubbed by critics as "the worst song ever," we're looking into overnight delivery and number of adults per household. We're soooo nice. Sigh.

3 The Protester is Time Magazine's Person of the Year. OK, you've occupied our media and our minds for the requisite 15 minutes. Time to lay down your pitchforks and your torches and go back to your farms and families. You've been naughty for a noble cause.

4 Albert Pujols has agreed to play baseball for the Los Angeles Angels for the next 10 years. In return the team has agreed to pay him \$50,000 every time he steps up to the plate, even though his batting average has lost more than 50 points since the 2008 season. Nice! Albert Pujols is definitely a member of the one per cent. How come nobody tries to Occupy the Dugout?

5 The Artist, the silent movie, leads the Golden Globe nominations with six. Silence is, er, golden. Meanwhile, last weekend was the worst in modern box-office history. Is there a pattern here? Fortunately the notoriously naughty Robert Downey Jr. opens this week as Sherlock Holmes in *A Game of Shadows*. As the main competition is *Alvin and the Chipmunks*, Sherlock's duel with Professor Moriarty, the Nabob of Naughty, expects to gross more than \$50 million.

6 The Higgs boson has made it a pretty nice week for science nerds as the VBEM (Very Big Expensive Machine) at CERN in Switzerland has identified tantalizing hints that the Holy Grail of physics, a.k.a. the God particle, the elemental building block of Everything, exists. They seek it here; they seek it there; that damned elusive particle. Stay tuned for the exciting conclusion early in 2012.

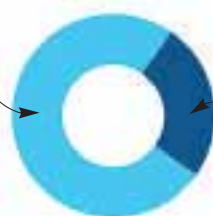
7 Justin Bieber is the most searched image on Google in 2011. Overexposed. And not in a nice way.



Register at
metropolitanpanel.ca
and take the quick poll

Bodog has set the over-under for games played by Sidney Crosby at 38.5. What would you take?

75%
THE UNDER
FOR SURE.
THAT'S EASY
MONEY



25%
I'LL TAKE THE
OVER. HE'S
JUST BEING
CAREFUL NOW

Local tweets



- **@mattaross:** I have a fever, and the only prescription is more caroling. Anyone in #LDNont know where some good pre-Xmas caroling is happening??
- **@phronk:** Hey #LDNont, you heard of turn signals? Neat invention; they give warning that you're turning and prevent fiery deaths. You should try them!
- **@Sharkiie:** Holy wind storm outside. #LDNont you are one strange city.
- **@phrawr:** If Mayor Fontana can't freeze taxes, please at least try and freeze this weather. Snow for Christmas! #LDNont
- **@lauriswitala:** Study, take study break to write exam, Christmas dinner, finish essay, sleep. Standard Thursday. #examseason #uwo
- **@connor_jameson_:** Quick fuens #uwo
- **@susantruppe:** House is adjourning after QP today until Jan 30. Looking fwd to a busy, productive schedule in the riding meeting with constituents! #LDNont
- **@meggytmctavish:** you know it's exam time when it's necessary to take power naps before 11am.. more coffee please #LateNightsEarlyMornings #uwo

Daily Zoom



Tiny baby beats enormous odds

Second-smallest baby in the U.S.

Melinda Guido is pictured shortly after her birth in late August with the hand of Dr. Rangasamy Ramanathan as a comparison. Melinda was born at 24 weeks weighing 9.5 ounces. She's believed to be the second smallest baby to survive in the U.S.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Girl power

- Most tiny babies who survive tend to be female because female fetuses mature faster than males.
- The smallest surviving baby, born weighing 9.2 ounces, is now a healthy seven-year-old. Another who weighed 9.9 ounces at birth is an honours college student.

"The first few weeks, it was touch and go. None of us thought the baby was going to make it."

DR. RANGASAMY RAMANATHAN

Two more weeks

Dr. Rangasamy Ramanathan predicted at least another two-week stay at the Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center for the premature baby, dashing her parents' hopes of taking her home by Christmas. Melinda can breathe by herself, but still uses an oxygen tube as a precaution.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



MIKE
YAWNEY
FOR METRO

Top tech toys

core processor. The updated handset features a 4.3-inch Super AMOLED screen, 8-megapixel camera capable of shooting 1080p HD video, as well as a front camera. One of the standout features has to be MotoCast, which lets you stream your documents and media files from your home or work computer. Easily one of the best Android phones of 2011.

Kobo Vox — \$199

Kobo is best known for its eReaders, but the company has now expanded into the tablet market. The affordable Kobo Vox is a colour eReader, which doubles as an entry-level Android tablet. Read books, surf the web, send email or download one of more than 15,000 apps. The Kobo Vox is not as fast as some of the top-selling tablets on the market, but makes a great gift for someone who wants an easy-to-use device.

Clockwise, from top: Motorola Razr, \$649 (no contract); \$149 (three-year contract); Nike+ SportsWatch GPS, \$199; Kobo Vox, \$199; and Crayola ColorStudio HD, \$29.99.



TDK Boombox — \$399

The '80s are making a comeback! TDK, the company best known for blank cassette tapes, is bringing the boombox back. This high-end audio system is made from quality materials including glass and aluminum. Two powerful six-inch coaxial drivers deliver clear vocals and crisp highs while a six-inch subwoofer provides superior bass. Supports most audio devices, even instruments! Carry this beauty on your shoulder this Christmas and make a statement.

ION iCade — \$99.99

Turn your iPad into an authentic arcade cabinet. Made from wood, this cabinet features buttons and a joystick to ensure you get the nostalgic feeling of stepping into an arcade. No quarters needed! The iCade is compatible with more than 100 classic Atari games such as Asteroids, Centipede, and Battlezone (each sold separately).

Viper SmartStart — starting at \$349 (price depends on vehicle)

Tired of getting into a cold vehicle? Why not use your smartphone to start your vehicle so it's toasty warm when you climb in. Viper's SmartStart system works off

your cell signal so you can start your vehicle from practically anywhere you get reception. No need for a remote on your key ring! Works with most smartphones.

Nike+ SportsWatch GPS — \$199

Need encouragement to get in shape? This watch may just be what you are looking for! Nike has teamed up with TomTom to design the perfect GPS watch to track time, pace, distance, calories burned, and heart rate while running. You can even go online and take a look at your running history and interact with runners around the globe. Wear it while running or use it as an everyday watch.

Darth Vader Toaster — \$49.99

Enjoy your toast on the dark side? This dual-slotted toaster is for you. This officially licensed toaster will help you leave the mark of Vader's helmet on every piece of bread in your home on Christmas morning. Optional temperature settings ensure each slice is toasted to perfection.

Parrot AR.Drone Quadricopter — \$329

Boys love their toys and here's one that will keep

ION iCade, \$99.99, left, Viper SmartStart, starting at \$349 (price depends on vehicle), below.



them entertained for hours. Parrot's AR.Drone is like a helicopter, only with four sets of spinning blades. The Drone is controlled through your iPhone and iPad. What really sets this gadget apart from other flying toys are the two cameras mounted on the device to give you a bird's-eye view from the air on your phone. Make sure you buy an extra battery since one charge will only give you about 10 minutes of flight!

Crayola ColorStudio HD — \$29.99

Turn your iPad into a colouring book. Download the special app, select your colour, tip shape and then draw on your iPad with the digital iMarker. It feels just like a real Crayola marker! Download new pages, background music and sound effects. It's like having a never-ending colouring book!

Darth Vader Toaster, \$49.99, top, TDK Boombox, \$399, left,



HOLIDAY 2011



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Pretty woman

► Ten top-to-toe gifts for her



**JANINE
FALCON**
FOR METRO

The KeratinPerfect Perfect Treatment Smoothing Duo safely tames stubborn, wayward hair into a smooth, swifty, glossy finish at home. \$65, Sephora.

Mineral-rich **Boscia Luminizing Black Mask** purifies skin as it softens, brightens and energizes. Plus, it looks wicked cool on the face — cuz, yep, it's black. \$41 at Sephora.

Outfitted in a sweet tweed case, the **Dior Deluxe Holiday Palette** features a smoky-eyes duo and nude lip shade, nude-eyes duo and red lip shade, plus lip balm, powder and mascara. \$90, The Bay.



Did someone say stress? Not us, at least not after time spent with the eucalyptus and spearmint **Bath & Body Works Stress Relief Set**, which includes body wash and foam bath, body lotion, a candle and massage oil. \$49.50, bathandbodyworks.com.

Die-hard DIY manicure fans can get in on the no-chip, soak-off gel mani action with the **Nailene Professional UV Gel System**.

With practice, it delivers salon-comparable results.



From \$9.99 to \$79.99, Shoppers Drug Mart.

With hands so much in the beauty spotlight, this **Crabtree & Evelyn Hand Therapy Kit with La Source Hand Recovery, Hand Therapy, Nail & Cuticle Cream** and a nail buffer, is a must-give. \$35, crabtree-evelyn.com for stores.

Iconic fragrance **L'Air du Temps** has a heritage that dates back to 1948. This year's **Nina Ricci L'Air**,

an airy, romantic floral, is the scent's youthful spin-off — the pair makes a lovely mother-daughter gift. From \$80, The Bay.

This luxurious, perfumed **Guerlain Vol de Nuit Powder Spray** is irresistibly iridescent with shimmering pale pink and hints of silver and blue-green sparkle. \$100, Guerlain counters.

A soothing, fragrant blend of

natural calendula, grape-seed, arnica, sandalwood and neroli oils,

Tata Harper Revitalizing Body Oil beautifully conditions skin without leaving it slick. \$90, Gee Beauty, 416-486-0080.

The **Airplus Spa Value**

Set is stocked with excellent foot care formulas plus a full-size pair of cosy, cloud-soft, aloe-infused socks — hugs for hardworking feet after a long day. \$12.99, Shoppers Drug Mart, Zellers



Clockwise from top: Bath & Body Works Stress Relief Set; Guerlain Vol de Nuit Powder Spray; Nailene Professional UV Gel System; Crabtree & Evelyn Hand Therapy Kit with La Source Hand Recovery, Hand Therapy, Nail & Cuticle Cream; Dior Deluxe Holiday Palette; Airplus Spa Value Set; Nina Ricci L'Air; Tata Harper Revitalizing Body Oil; Boscia Luminizing Black Mask.



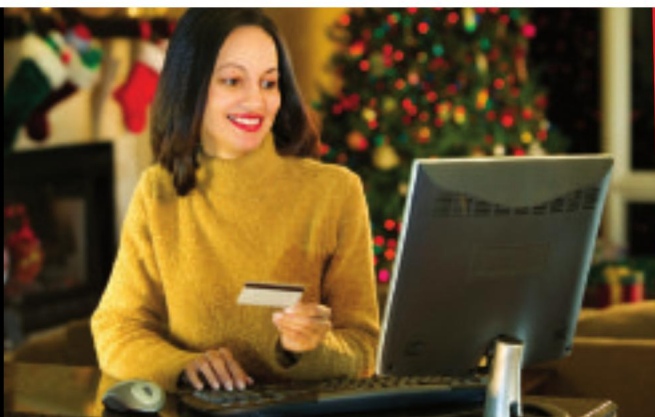
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COMSTOCK/THINKSTOCK

LET YOUR FINGERS DO THE SHOPPING

ONLINE SHOPPING

You have to admit it, there's something pretty appealing about being able to do your Christmas shopping from the comfort of your own home. No need to circle around mall

parking lots looking for elusive parking spaces, no need to wrestle with awkward packages and, of course, no need to even change out of your pyjamas.

From research and comparison shopping to purchase and delivery, many people are discovering

that online is the way to shop. The Internet offers almost endless ideas for finding the perfect gift for everyone on your shopping list. If you are thinking about doing some of your Christmas online this year, here are some pointers to help make the experience an efficient and enjoyable one.

OBTAIN A CREDIT CARD FOR ONLINE PURCHASES

Scotiabank has a suite of Momentum Visa Cards that offer cash-back rewards from 1 per cent to 4 per cent. To help decide which card is right for you, try the Momentum Cash Back Calculator at scotiabank.com/momentumcashback.

BE THE FIRST TO KNOW about shipping specials and other discounts by signing up for e-mail discounts from your favourite shops.

BOOKMARK SITES designed for Canadian shoppers. Canada Post Comparison Shopper (canadapost.ca/shopper), for example, analyzes products and deals from hundreds of stores in Canada and the U.S. Another site, Canada Shopping Links



JUPITERIMAGES/BRAND X PICTURES/THINKSTOCK

(canadashoppinglinks.com) guides you to Canada's Internet retailers.

DETAILS When you're considering a purchase, pay attention to any terms and conditions, warranties, shipping facts and other important details.

REVIEW THE VENDOR'S RETURN POLICY Even the savviest of shoppers can end up with clothing that doesn't fit, is the wrong colour or wasn't quite what he or she expected.

With Dec. 25 fast approaching, make sure you also factor in delivery time. Some sites offer express shipping, but it's best to get your shopping done sooner than later to ensure that your special gift makes it under the tree in time for Christmas!

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FIVE TIPS FOR WRAPPING UP CHRISTMAS

Say so long to Christmas-Eve chaos this year by wrapping holiday gifts well before Christmas. Here are a few tips to make the job easy and enjoyable.

SET UP A DESIGNATED WRAPPING AREA and ensure you have all the gift-wrapping essentials before you start. These include scissors,

tape, gift tags, paper and ribbon.
Tip: Double-sided tape stays put and out of sight.

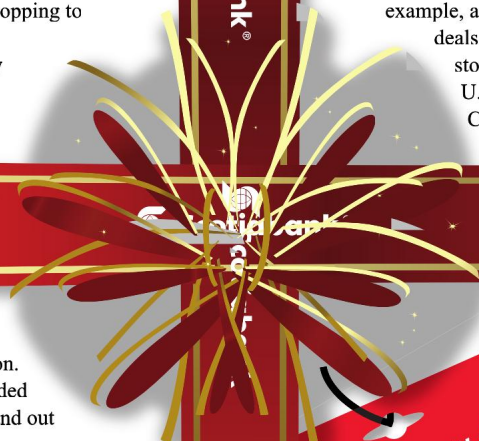
USE CLEAR OR PRINTED CELLOPHANE BAGS to wrap beauty products, candies, or baked goods. Seal the bag with ribbon or raffia and add some seasonal stickers to finish the job.

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When it comes to choosing the top 10 Christmas songs of all time, where do you start? Over the years, the airwaves have treated us to a variety of classics sung by everyone from Bing Crosby and Nat "King" Cole to Band Aid and Mariah Carey.

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1. The Christmas Song (Nat "King" Cole)
2. Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas (The Pretenders)
3. Winter Wonderland (Eurythmics)
4. Santa Claus Is Coming To Town (Bruce Springsteen)
5. White Christmas (Bing Crosby)
6. Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow! (Andy Williams)
7. Jingle Bell Rock (Bobby Helms)
8. Little Drummer Boy (The Harry Simeone Chorale & Orchestra)
9. Sleigh Ride (The Ronettes)
10. Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer (Gene Autry)

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L'Occitane Verdon Fresh Water Shower Body & Hair two-in-one wash saves time as it wakes him up with its waterfall-fresh scent. \$18, loccitane.com.

New **Gillette Fusion ProGlide Irritation 5 Defense Shave Gel** foams up to a rich beard-softening lather, and is souped up with glide-enhancing lubricants for a gentle, yet close shave. \$7.49 at

drugstores and retailers.

Biotherm Homme Aquapower D-Sensitive Soothing & Fortifying After Shave Moisturizer is fragrance- and alcohol-free, and enriched with Biotherm's signature Pure Thermal Plankton Extract plus calcium. \$30, biothermhomme.ca.

Kiehl's Facial Fuel Transformer Age Correcting Moisture Gel for Men nudges the clock back on fine lines, uneven skin tone and pesky large pores with a light, quick-absorb formula. \$35, kiehls.ca.

All-natural Consonant Body Antioxidant Superhero Serum doses skin with vitamins, minerals, and mattifying marine clay. **Ultra**

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Talc-free Jack Black Performance Remedy Dry Down Friction-Free Powder is a cornstarch, cucumber and green tea mix that absorbs moisture and reduces chafing to make workouts more comfortable. \$24, Sephora.

With notes of spearmint, peppermint, citrus and vetiver, **Giorgio Armani Code Sport** is a crisp, energetic scent with

Gillette Fusion ProGlide Irritation 5 Defense Shave Gel, left, The Body Shop Hemp Hand Protector and Hemp Body Butter, below.



a distinctive underlying sensuality. \$75, drug and department stores.

Men are funny about hand and body creams (that's not code), but **The Body Shop Hemp Hand Protector and Hemp Body Butter** consistently seems to meet with their approval. That's a win-win. \$10 and \$18, respectively, thebodysshop.ca.

Best man-bribe? A massage, especially with **Weleda Arnica Massage Oil**, which will help warm and relax sore, tired muscles. \$24, well.ca, Rexall Pharmacy Plus, Whole Foods.

From left: Weleda Arnica Massage Oil; Talc-free Jack Black Performance Remedy Dry Down Friction-Free Powder; Biotherm Homme Aquapower D-Sensitive Soothing & Fortifying After Shave Moisturizer; Giorgio Armani Code Sport; Kerastase Homme Capital Force Daily Treatment Shampoo Anti-Oiliness Effect; L'Occitane Verdon Fresh Water Shower Body & Hair; Kiehl's Facial Fuel Transformer Age Correcting Moisture Gel for Men.



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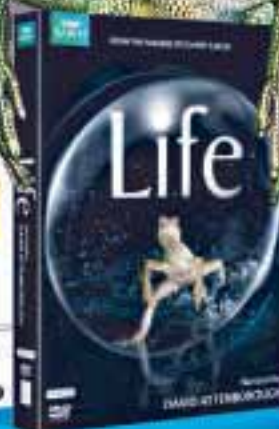
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Gross-Abulary Game, \$24.95, ages six and up, available at Mastermind Toys, mastermindtoys.com.



Air Hogs Hyperactives Pro R/C Vehicle, \$59.99, available at major toy retailers, airhogs.com.



Smart Labs Weird and Wacky Contraption Lab, \$49.95, ages eight and up, available at Mastermind Toys, mastermindtoys.com.



Classic Red 12-inch Wheel Cruiser, \$139.95, available at Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca.



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Measure up as a party host this season

► Experts say don't have an open bar when hosting a holiday gathering ► Pour standard pours for your guests

Pouring drinks for guests can be somewhat intimidating.

People have different preferences, the glassware comes in all shapes and sizes and it can be tricky to get the amounts just right.

The host or hostess will also want to make sure that guests who imbibe over the holidays get home safely, or spend the night on a couch or in the guestroom if need be.

"Part of being a respon-

sible host is definitely to measure your drinks for your guests, and not have an open bar," said Stephanie Petroff, a senior communications consultant for the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO).

"Measuring drinks is really important. Not only do drinks taste better, but you're also then making sure that you're pouring standard pours."

If guests request a weaker version of a mixed

drink, that's OK, too, she indicated. "If they want to pour their own, have somebody there maybe offering a bit of advice."

Troy Wanner, operations manager for the Fine Art Bartending School, said it's tough to get the amounts right just by eyeballing the glass.

"Definitely have a measuring device of some sort, whether it be a shot glass, a jigger, anything that you can kind of measure your pouring," he said from the school's head office in Kelowna, B.C.

Getting the right amount of ice in the glass of a mixed drink can make a huge difference, he added.

"People don't realize that. If you only put a little bit of ice in the glass, then you'll have a lot of mix, whereas if you have the glass full of ice, you're going to have way less mix."

Petroff noted that shapes and sizes of glassware are getting larger, which can contribute to the challenge of mastering the perfect pour.

LCBO launched a new ad recently to encourage people to speak up — address the elephant in the room — and prevent inebriated guests from getting behind the wheel. A new home bartending challenge on its website (deflatetheelephant.com) allows users to look at various glasses intended for different beverages, and try online to pour the correct amount.

"There's a whole variety of glassware so it's important to be aware that you're not, obviously, fill-

Checklist

Here is a checklist for responsible hosting when alcoholic beverages are being served at a holiday party or get-together:

- **Don't plan physical activities** when you're serving alcohol. People are more prone to accidents and injury when drinking.
- **Provide low-alcohol and alcohol-free drinks**, such as mocktails, non-alcoholic punch, pop, water, tea and coffee.
- **Have food available** to avoid drinking on an empty stomach. Avoid serving salty, sweet or greasy snack foods; they will make your guests thirstier. High-starch and protein foods such as meats, veggies, cheeses, dips and breads are good choices.

ing it to the top or overpouring because then it's hard to, in a sense, control what guests are drinking throughout the evening," Petroff said.

When trying the home bartending challenge, Petroff acknowledged that the wine category was the hardest for her because some wine glasses are almost bowl-like nowadays.

Wanner agreed that there is a tendency to want to overpour with the large goblets.

"If you want to use a bigger glass, you can pre-pour into a smaller dinner wine glass and then dump it into the goblet so you're not overpouring. To eyeball wine into a goblet is next to impossible."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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✱ Experts say measuring drinks is important at parties. Not only do drinks taste better, but you are also making sure you are pouring standard pours.

A GROWING VOICE



ISTOCK/THINKSTOCK

MORE CANADIANS ARE CHOOSING TO HELP OTHERS OVER THE HOLIDAYS

During the Christmas holidays, there tends to be a focus on gift giving, but there is a growing movement towards charitable gift giving.

"I think it's a sort of growing voice," says Owen Charters, the executive director of canadahelps.org.

Canadahelps.org is a Canadian website that allows people to make online donations to any registered Canadian charity.

Charters says part of the reason for the charitable gift giving movement is that in an aging population, people are having a hard time finding items of need for themselves and others.

"How many more things do we really need?" is a question Charters says many baby boomers are asking themselves.

Charters says companies are also gravitating towards charitable gift giving. Rather than sending out cards and gifts, some are instead sending out holiday cards by email and making a donation to charity.

For Heather Avery, a resident of Truro, N.S., her practice of charitable gift giving during the Christmas holidays originated from her husband's family. Avery's husband grew up on a farm and the values of being appreciative of what you had and helping others in need were instilled in the children from an early age.

Charitable gift giving is an idea she has bought into completely.

"When I came on the scene, it was like, 'Oh, you don't give your mom and dad a gift for Christmas,'" recalls Avery. "Now it's second nature. It's just, 'This is what we do. What charity are we choosing this year?' It's the way it should be."

Another added benefit of making a donation to charity is the tax benefits, although research shows this is only a small motivating factor for people.

With around 80,000 charities in Canada, choosing one (or a few) to donate to can be a challenge. Charters recommends checking out charities' annual reports and their websites to get a better idea of the work they are doing and the sort of impact they are having.

Also, don't hesitate to contact the organization for additional information.

"An organization that's doing great work is usually proud to talk about what they are up to," says Charters.

One important thing to determine is whether an organization is actually a charity. To verify this, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) recommends people ask a charity for its registration number and then confirm its status by accessing CRA's charities listing on its website (cra-arc.gc.ca) or by phoning CRA.



BRAND PICTURES/THINKSTOCK

CHILDREN'S WISH GRANTS WISHES IN RECORD NUMBERS

Last year, The Children's Wish Foundation of Canada granted wishes to more children with a life-threatening illness than in any other year in its history. Approximately 1,100 children and their families got a reprieve from difficult treatments, therapies and hospital stays, and shared in the positive experience, hope and courage that a wish can bring.

"2011 is shaping up to be another record year for granting wishes," commented Regan Ludlow, Acting Director of Wishes for Children's Wish. "Virtually every month this year has seen a record number of children approved to receive their most heartfelt wish."

"We are very privileged to be able to have such a positive impact on the lives of the children we serve and their families," notes Children's Wish CEO, Chris Kotsopoulos, "and we look forward to continuing our tradition of never refusing a wish to an eligible child."

The cost of granting wishes to all children approved this year is expected to exceed \$11 million, placing greater importance on expanding the Foundation's engagement with volunteers and donors over the holiday season through such diverse avenues as The Catalogue of Wishes (catalogueofwishes.ca).

The Children's Wish Foundation of Canada is the country's only all-Canadian, national wish-granting organization with chapter offices in every province. The Foundation relies entirely on the generosity of their donors and volunteers to grant children their wishes. For more information about The Children's Wish Foundation of Canada, visit childrenswish.ca.



Paige was granted her wish to have her very own playhouse by Children's Wish

Give the gift of wishes this holiday season

Shop from the Catalogue of Wishes

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HOLIDAY GIVING GUIDE: A NEW LOOK AT HOLIDAY MONEY MYTHS

PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE MONEY CAN'T BUY HAPPINESS MIGHT BE SURPRISED AT HOW MUCH JOY YOU CAN BUY

A gift from World Vision Canada's 2011 holiday catalogue comes with a guarantee to change lives, including your own. Consider these twists on some old chestnuts.

FACT OR FICTION?

HEALTH IS BETTER THAN WEALTH

Health is, of course, invaluable. That's what makes a gift of health-care essentials worth more than a fortune in a developing country. For just \$100,

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FACT OR FICTION?

MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON TREES

Answer: not literally, of course. But the miraculous moringa tree might as well sprout cash. Often referred to as the "miracle tree," the moringa grows throughout Africa and Latin America; its leaves and stems are exceptionally nutritious, and they yield cleansers, medicines and fibres that families can sell. For \$125, you can buy a family a future.

FACT OR FICTION?

IT TAKES MONEY TO MAKE MONEY

Absolutely true – and perhaps no truer than when a gift takes a family or even a community from dire poverty to sustainability. One of World Vision Canada's most popular gift is two hens and a rooster, which cost \$50 and

provide not only high-protein food for families but a source of income. You can also purchase goats, beekeeping kits, a fish farm... the list goes on.

FACT OR FICTION?

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Synopsis

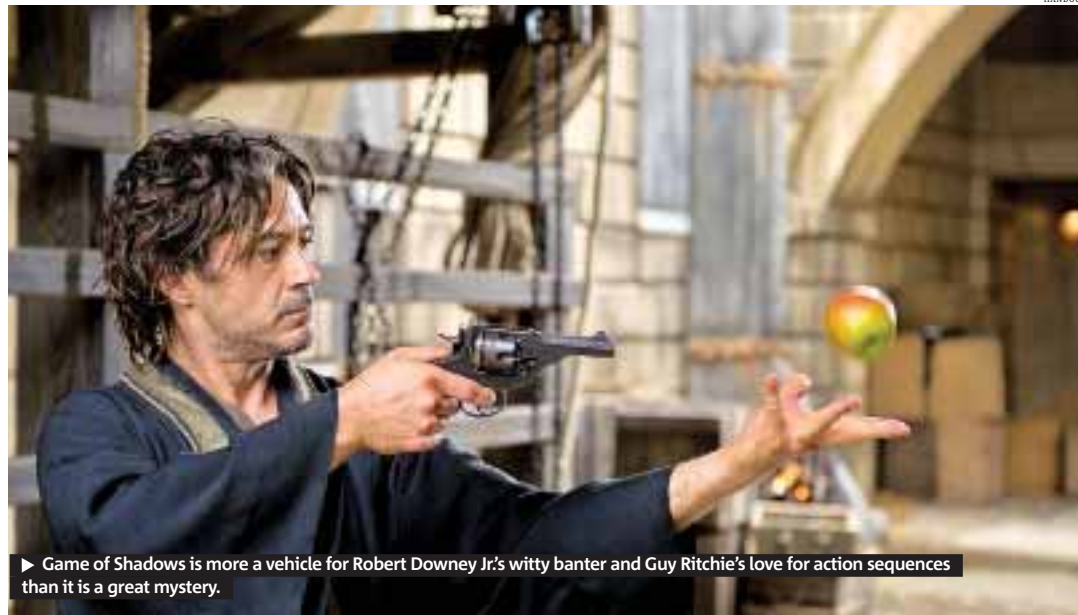
The puzzle at the heart of *Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows* begins with the death of the Crown Prince of Austria. Written off as a suicide, Holmes (Robert Downey Jr) deduces there is more to the story. Enter Watson (Jude Law), who should be on his honeymoon, a beautiful fortune-teller (Noomi Rapace, the original girl with the dragon tattoo), the evil Moriarty and more intrigue than you can shake a deer-stalker hat at. This week the game's afoot with Reel Guy Ned Ehrbar!

Ratings:
Richard: ●●●½
Ned: ●●●●

Reel Guys

**RICHARD
CROUSE &
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► *Game of Shadows* is more a vehicle for Robert Downey Jr.'s witty banter and Guy Ritchie's love for action sequences than it is a great mystery.

Elementary plot

► *Game of Shadows* is light on the storyline, but heavy on action and witty banter

Richard: Ned, there is no question that RDJ and Law bring a certain joie de vivre to the usually staid portrayal of the great detective and his loyal sidekick. They look like they're having a ball, probably more fun than the audience, in fact. As enjoyable as it is to watch these two riff off one another it soon becomes clear the whole movie is nothing more than a vehicle for their banter.

Ned: The banter is delightful, there's no denying that. But when they're not sniping at each other, you start to notice the plot doesn't really measure up to a detective of Holmes' stature

— or offer any original ideas. Basically, if you don't want the movie spoiled for you, wipe the League of Extraordinary Gentlemen from your memory, as Moriarty's scheme is exactly the same in both movies. I'm assuming the filmmakers are banking on no one remembering that movie, though — which is a safe bet — but still.

RC: Agreed, if you can figure out the story. Confused and confusing, the plot zips along at such a rapid pace you'll barely know it doesn't make much sense because director Guy Ritchie fills the screen with wildly edited scenes anchored by

Downey's flamboyant performance. It looks cool and will make you laugh occasionally, but the quips and extravagantly edited sequences are only fun in the moment. They don't add up to much of a movie.

NE: Some of those cool-looking scenes can grate, as well. A little bit of the Sherlock slow-mo fight analysis goes a long way, but since it got such a good reaction in the first film, Ritchie lays on the bullet time a little thick here. One element that did work for me though was Jared Harris' Moriarty, a dangerously brilliant villain with a plausible cover story as a mild-

mannered professor. It's a shame he's not in the movie more, though.

RC: Harris has one seminal psycho moment — is there anything crazier than belting out an aria while torturing your nemesis? — but I didn't think Noomi Rapace, while eye catching as Sim, was given enough to do to be truly memorable.

NE: True, she doesn't get much to do besides react to the dynamic duo's chicanery and drop helpful reminders about the plot. And the less said about RJD on a pony, the better. Still, audiences could do a lot worse.

Scene in brief



Howard Stern will be joining the judges' panel on America's Got Talent, and the NBC summer talent show will uproot itself from Los Angeles to accommodate the New York-based shock jock, the network said Thursday. NBC confirmed weeks-old rumours of Stern's selection to join fellow Talent judges Howie Mandel and Sharon Osbourne.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Candy Spelling packs up, leaves Spelling Manor — the house that TV built — in HGTV special

"THIS IS WHY WE GO TO THE MOVIES!"
Jake Hamilton, FOX-TV

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Rape. Murder. Freezing cold weather. Happy holidays from the team behind *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, the latest adaptation of Stieg Larsson's international bestseller.

The book — about a journalist (Daniel Craig) who investigates a dysfunctional family's murder mystery, with help from anti-social hacker Lisbeth Salander (Rooney Mara) — has already spawned a successful Swedish film trilogy. So what was the draw for signing on to a remake, especially a dark one?

For Craig and Mara, it was a chance to work closely with director David Fincher. Mara appeared in his *The Social Network*. *Tattoo* is generating similar Oscar buzz, but it's not without its share of controversy and critics, thanks to some startlingly frank and sexual subject matter.

The set was lighthearted, though. As were the two actors at our chat....

DANIEL CRAIG

Now that you've played a journalist, do you have any more sympathy for journalists?

I've always loved journalists. I don't know where the story's come from, that I have a problem with journalists. I have a problem with intrusion — that's something different completely. But some of my heroes are journalists.

The opening credits made me think what a David Fincher Bond film might look like.

I could see him applying it to anything, really. I'd love to work with him again, and I'd do anything for him. David has a very happy set most of the time — as much as a set can ever be happy when you're filming very dramatic scenes.

So who is the biggest joker among the group?

We're all pretty good. It's when it's appropriate. When someone's got a big, tough scene to do or it's a tough day, you're not making jokes. But sometimes it's important just to break the tension. I couldn't tell you who's the funniest. God forbid I should give David way too much praise. He can't be funny as



DANIEL CRAIG AND ROONEY MARA

► In exclusive one-on-ones, Metro interviewed the stars of this season's most anticipated film, asking what they think of one another, the book's dark tone and Bond, James Bond.

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO Q+A

well as being brilliant. That's just not fair (laughs).

There was some financial trouble with the Bond franchise over the last couple of years, but that made it possible for you to do this film.

That's true, it did, yes. I always knew it was going to work itself out. But I'd also kind of said to myself, if it doesn't work out somebody else is going to do it. That's the way it is. Bond will be fine, he'll keep going.

Tattoo has Oscar buzz, but do you worry that the roughness might scare off some voters?

Oh look, I can't think about all that. It's such a crazy period. If it offends a few people, good. I hope it does.

Craig vs. the Kardashians

In an interview with the U.K. edition of GQ, Craig indirectly called the reality star Kardashians "f-cking idiots." Or did he?

What's the deal between you and them?

I don't know anything about this, and I've never seen the Kardashians. I mean, I have got a vague idea of what they are but I've never watched the show.

Want to clear anything up?

I've got nothing to clear up (laughs). I think I'm probably being set up by somebody here. I don't know what a Kardashian is.

ROONEY MARA

Lisbeth is an iconic character, with piercings and a punk look. How collaborative was David Fincher with you regarding the look?

There were a lot of discussions about the character — about the way she looks, about the way she walks, about the way she talks, about her eye contact, about her mannerisms. But at the end of the day, you know, obviously I'm the person playing the character so he did give me a lot of freedom in that. There was always a lot of talking and a lot of collaboration.

Why do you think it is that when a female character is presented as strong and in any way sexualized, some people dismiss it as exploitative or misogynistic?

I don't know, because people are stupid? (laughs) I don't know, that's true. I don't know why.

Because I think it scares people.

Things that people aren't used to seeing or experiencing scares them. The thing that's so interesting about this character is that she has these two different sides. She's perfectly capable of taking care of herself, but at the same time she's vulnerable and put in these horrible positions.

She's wise beyond her years and incredibly bright, but at the same time she's emotionally stunted at 12 years old and is naïve and doesn't have a lot of experience with other people. So I think that's what makes her so interesting, that she has these

What's a merkin?

What's the one part of Lisbeth that's depicted in the movie that might get overlooked, a detail that you hope people catch? I can't think of a serious answer to that question, but I can think of a ridiculous answer to that question.

Ridiculous answers work, too.

Well, her merkin. There was a lot of discussion that went into my merkin for the movie, because I was naked quite a lot. And I don't think a lot of people will notice all of the attention that went into that. But there was a lot of discussions around that.

What sort of discussions are we talking about?

Well, you know, in the book she's meant to have strawberry-blonde hair originally and she dyes it, so we had a special merkin made that was, you know, strawberry-blonde so that it would fit.

COLUMBIA PICTURES



► Mara as Salander

opposing sides. She's been sexually abused, but at the same time she's very sexual, and I think that also probably scares some people.

She's a full human character, which I guess people aren't maybe used to seeing in Hollywood for a female lead.

Yeah, I guess that's part of it. Maybe she's not that incredible. Maybe she's just actually a fully developed human (laughs).

Has playing such a hacker made you any more paranoid about your own online life?

Yeah, it has. I was pretty paranoid before, but this has made me more paranoid. I don't think it's good to live your life in fear, but certainly you need to be more conscious of it.

Tintin's character rings true for Bell

► Actor Jamie Bell talks about his childhood fascination with Hergé's detective ► Tintin a 'beacon of excellence'



RICHARD CROUSE

SCENE@METRONWS.CA

Legend has it that when Steven Spielberg offered Jamie Bell the lead role in *The Adventures of Tintin*, the actor looked the Hollywood legend in the eye and said, "I'll have to think about it."

"What is true is that he said, 'If you were to be Tintin it would be about five years of your life. Are you comfortable with that?' To me, as a 16-year-old, five years was a really long time (he's 24 now). So I didn't want to be the naïve actor and say, 'OK, I'm fine with that. I wanted to really consider it. I don't even think I said I'd think about it, I just

didn't give a definitive answer.

"For me it was more important to be sitting down at a table with him. Just sharing a Hollywood meeting with him was awesome. To me, as a child, he was otherworldly. He was a Houdini character who made dinosaurs live and boys fly on bicycles."

Bell, who first won hearts as the lead in coming-of-age-dance movie *Billy Elliot*, says getting to make the movie with Spielberg has "remarkable synergy" because "Tintin was one of his favourite childhood things."

Originally, he simply enjoyed the characters, he says, but there was some-

thing special that set the stories about the young detective apart from other kid's comics.

"It was different from all the other cartoons. I felt respected, as a kid, by Tintin. That allowed me to gravitate toward him and go on his adventures.

"I was a very inquisitive kid," he says. "I used to watch a lot of political satire comedy shows. I'm sure I had no idea what they were talking about, but they were funny to me. Grown-ups making fun of other grown-ups was hilarious.

"So when I read Tintin and he was travelling around the world solving political corruption, I just



► The Adventures of Tintin channels the spirit of the beloved books.

knew what was going on."

The film grabs the spirit of the beloved books, bringing some of the intensity — and mild violence — of the original Hergé books to the screen.

"If Tintin wasn't the beacon of excellence that he is," says Bell, "if he wasn't the guy with the correct moral compass, if he wasn't so innocently earnest all the time, I think that could

be an issue.

"But because the character at the front is such a great, natural and instinctual heroic character, I think you kind of get away with it."

RICHARD ROEPER

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Young Adult

Genre: Comedy
Director: Jason Reitman
Stars: Charlize Theron, Patton Oswalt, Patrick Wilson

Oscar-winner Charlize Theron takes the cartoon route in this downbeat story of an alcoholic author who proves you can't go home again. Especially when you're an emotional wreck intent on stealing your high school sweetheart from his wife and newborn. Diablo Cody's premise is interesting, but the filmmakers aim low. The film lacks subtlety and glorifies the bratty inner child, when the grown-up in question should be trying



desperately to locate her inner adult. The humour is mild, juvenile and low-brow and veers into verboten territory as regional, sexist and somewhat homophobic. **ANNE BRODIE**



Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chip-Wrecked
Genre: Animation
Director: Mike Mitchell
Stars: Justin Long, Matthew Gray Gubler, Jesse McCartney

The plot for the third theatrical outing of Alvin and his rodent brethren gets underway after the trio get separated from the Carnival cruise ship (ingenious product placement, that) and end up on that ever-green cartoon trope, the deserted island. Kids movies generally succeed by having something in them for the dragged-along parents as well, but the only jokes to sail over kids' heads in Chip-Wrecked seem to make reference to Internet memes and popular YouTube videos, which just seems lazy more than anything.

NED EHRBAR

Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol

Genre: Action
Director: Brad Bird
Stars: Tom Cruise, Simon Pegg

In the fourth Mission Impossible thriller, Tom Cruise and his rogue team of spies must clear their name after it's framed for a terrorist plot against the Kremlin. It's a simple, un-

derplayed plotline but an impressive vehicle for huge action sequences that include Cruise hanging off the Burj Khalifa in Dubai — even more stunning in IMAX. While the villain is bland and the supporting characters a bit thin, Ghost Protocol's intensity and pace returns Cruise to form as one of cinema's more thrilling spies. **STEVE GOW**

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Like Crazy (14A) Fri 9 Sat 5 Sun 9 Mon 5 Tue 9:10 Wed 1-5 Thu 9:30
My Week With Marilyn (14A) Fri 3:10-7:10 Sat 1-9:10 Sun 3:10-7:10 Mon 3:10-9 Tue 1-5 Wed 7 Thu 1
The Way (STC) Fri 1-5 Sat 2:50-7 Sun-Mon 1-5 Tue 2:50-7 Wed 2:45-9 Thu 2:50-7:20
White Christmas (PG) Thu 5

Rainbow Cinemas London 355 Wellington St., 519-434-3073

The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) Wed-Thu 1:10-3:40 7:20-9:40
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:30 7-9
Arthur Christmas (G) Fri-Tue 1:25-3:45 7-15
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) Wed-Thu 12:45-4-7:30
The Grinch (G) Sat 11
Happy Feet Two 3D (PG) Fri-Tue 1-3:25 7:10-9:20
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG) Tue 7:10-9:50 Wed-Thu 12:55-3:55 7:10-9:50
The Muppets (G) Fri-Mon 1:20-3:50 6:55-9:25 Tue 1:20-3:50
New Year's Eve (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50 7:05-9:40
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:10 6:55-9:35
The Sitter (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:30 7:20-9:15
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri-Tue 9:30

Western Film Room 340, UCC Building, No Films Showing Today (STC) Fri-Thu

Wellington 8 Cinemas 983 Wellington Rd. S, 519-685-2529

The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) Wed-Thu 6:50-9:30
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Fri 7:10-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:10 7:10-9:35 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:35
Arthur Christmas (G) Sat-Sun 1:40-4:15
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) No Passes Tue-Thu 7:30
Happy Feet Two (PG) Sat-Sun 12:40
Happy Feet Two 3D (PG) Fri 6:30-9:10 Sat-Sun 3:40-6:30 9:10 Mon-Tue 6:30-9:10
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri-Mon 7:15-9:55
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG) No Passes Tue 7:10 No Passes Wed-Thu 7:10-10:05
The Muppets (G) Fri 6:45-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:50 6:45-9:20 Mon-Tue 6:45-9:20 Wed-Thu 7:15-10
New Year's Eve (PG) Fri 6:40-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:45 6:40-9:30 Mon-Tue 6:40-9:30 Wed-Thu 6:40-9:45
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG) No Passes Fri 6:50-9:50 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30 6:50-9:50 No Passes Mon-Tue 6:50-9:50 No Passes Wed-Thu 6:45-9:50
The Sitter (14A) Fri 7:20-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:20 7:20-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:40
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri 7:9:45 Sat-Sun 1:47-9:45 Mon 7-9:45

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► New Year's Eve stars Josh Duhamel as well as Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Biel and Ashton Kutcher.

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The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 7-9:45
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) No Passes Fri 5:7-20-9:50 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:30-2:45 5:7-20-9:50 No Passes Mon 6:50-9:10 No Passes Tue 4:20-6:40-9 No Passes Wed-Thu 6:50-9:10
Arthur Christmas (G) Fri 3:50-6:30-9:10 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50 6:30-9:10 Mon 6:30-9 Tue 4:10
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) No Passes Tue 7:10-25 No Passes Wed-Thu 6:30-9:55 No Passes Tue-Thu 8
Hugo 3D (PG) Fri 4:30-7:30-10:20 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:30 7:30-10:20 Mon 7:20-10:10 Tue 3:40-6:30-9:20
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG) No Passes Tue 7:10-10:10 No Passes Wed-Thu 6:40-9:40 No Passes Tue-Thu 7:10
The Muppets (G) Fri 4:6-50-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-4-6:50-9:30 Mon 7-9:40 Tue 4-6:45-9:30 Wed-Thu 6:55-9:35
New Year's Eve (PG) Fri 4:20-7:10-10:10 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:20 7:10-10:10 Mon 7:10-10 Tue 4:30-7:20-10:05 Wed-Thu 7:20-10:10 Fri 3:50-6:45-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:3-50-6:45-9:35 Mon 6:30-9:20 Tue 4:40 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Nutcracker - Bolshoi Ballet Encore (STC) Sun 1 Mon 6:30
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG) No Passes Fri 3:40-6:40-9:40 No

Passes Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:40 No Passes Mon 6:40-9:35 No Passes Tue 3:50-6:50-9:50 No Passes Wed-Thu 7:10-10:05 No Passes Fri 4:20-7:15-10:10 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:30-4:20-7:15-10:10 No Passes Mon 7-9:50 No Passes Tue 3:40-6:30-9:30 No Passes Wed-Thu 6:30-9:30 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
The Sitter (14A) Fri 4:40-7:40-10:30 Sat 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:30 Sun 4:40-7:40-10:30 Mon 10:05 Tue 4:50
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri 4:10-7:10 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10 Mon 7:05-9:50 Tue 4:40-7:30-10:15 Wed-Thu 7:25-10:10 Fri 4:50-7:45-10:35 Sat-Sun 2:40-7:45-10:35 Mon 7:30-10:15 Tue 4:10

SilverCity London 1680 Richmond St, 519-673-4125

The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 11:30-12:20-4:50-5:20-7:50-10:40
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:10-1:10-2:30-3:30-4:50-5:50-7:15-8:10-9:35-10:35 No Passes Tue 12:10-1:10-2:30-3:30-4:50-5:50-7:15-8:10-9:35-10:35 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:10-2:30-3:30-4:50-5:50-8:15-10:35 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1:10
Arthur Christmas (G) Fri-Tue 12 Wed-Thu 11:50
Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Fri-Tue 2:40-5:15-7:55-10:20 Wed-Thu 2:35-5:15-7:55-10:20
The Descendants (14A) Fri-Sat 12:55-4:30-7:10-10:10 Sun 12:55-4:30-10:45 Mon 12:55-4:30-

7:10-10:10 Tue 12:55-4:30
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) No Passes Tue 7:10-30 No Passes Wed-Thu 11:45-3:15 6:45-10:15
The Metropolitan Opera: Don Giovanni - Encore (STC) Sat 12:55
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (PG) No Passes Tue 7:15-10:15 No Passes Wed-Thu 1:4-7:10
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol: The IMAX Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 11:2-5-8:11 No Passes Wed-Thu 2:7-30-10:30
The Muppets (G) Fri-Sat 11:30-2:05-4:55-7:50-10:45 Sun 11:30-2:05-4:55-7:50 Mon-Tue 11:30-2:05-4:55-7:50-10:45 Wed-Thu 12:05-2:45-5:25-8:10-10:55
New Year's Eve (PG) Fri-Tue 1:50-4:35-7:30-10:55 Wed-Thu 11:15-2:10-4:55-7:40-10:55
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 10:55-12:45-1:45-3:45-4:45-7:45-10:10-10:50 No Passes Wed 4:45-7:10-7:45-10:10-10:50 No Passes Thu 10:55-1:45-4:45-7:10-7:45-10:10-10:50 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
The Sitter (14A) Fri 1:30-3:50-6-8:05-10:30 Sat 4:40-8:05-10:30 Sun-Thu 1:30-3:50-6-8:05-10:30
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri 1:40-4:40-7:25-10:25 Sat 1:40-7:25-10:25 Sun 1:40-4:40-7:25-10:25 Mon 1:15-4:10-10:25 Tue 1:40-4:15
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders & Chairs - 2011 (STC) Sun 8
Young Adult (14A) Fri-Tue 12:40-3:10-5:40-8:15-10:40 Wed-Thu 12:40-3:10-5:40-8:20-10:45

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Suri Cruise rakes it in for Christmas



► Suri Cruise

Suri Cruise doesn't skimp when it comes to asking for things from Santa.

Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes' daughter reportedly has a Christmas list of items that total \$130,000, according to In Touch Weekly.

Topping the 5-year-old's list are a pony, diamond earrings and gowns that will make her look "like a

fairly princess," according to the magazine.

And Cruise has reportedly already found a stable in Beverly Hills for the pony.

"Tom and Katie love the holidays and always go overboard," a source says.

"Suri is very mature and knows what she wants."

● METRO

Eastwood doing reality TV? Please say it ain't so

► Actor's family set to star in show produced by makers of Kardashian series

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

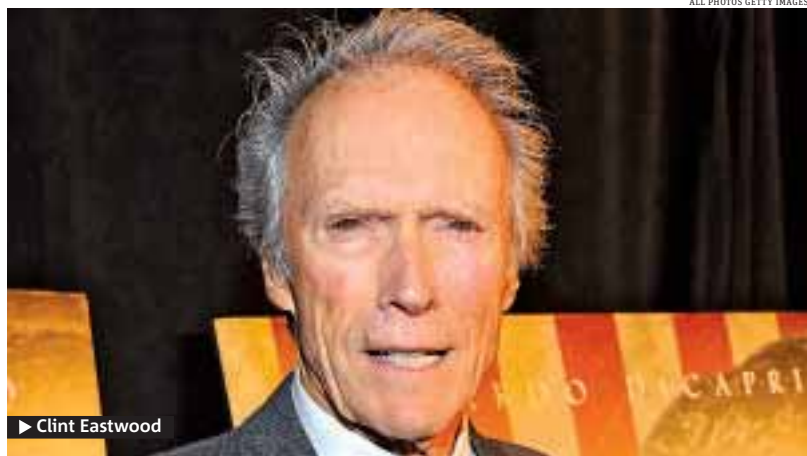


The news that Clint Eastwood and his family are making a reality TV show is making me feel all Dirty

Harry on the inside.

Yes, TMZ.com is reporting that Eastwood's wife and two daughters are shooting a new reality show that will explore what it's like to be "Hollywood royalty" for the E! Network (editor's note: All reality TV shows are about this. Change it up, people).

Per TMZ, it will focus on the relationship between Clint's wife Dina Eastwood, their daughter Morgan and Clint's 18-year-old daughter Francesca. It is being pro-



► Clint Eastwood

duced by the same company that is also responsible for the Kardashian shows.

Honestly, folks, let's just give up.

Because if Clint, 81, succumbs to the siren call of reality TV, there is no hope for the rest of it.

It's because he and his family are "Hollywood royalty" that they don't have to sink to this, even if the focus is going to be on Francesca, an aspiring actress (second note: If your dad is Clint East-

wood and you need to have a reality TV show to gain traction, you must be a terrible actress).

Come on, Clint. You starred in Gran Torino — please don't go down without a

fight.

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Celebrity tweets



Trivia: In the Jerk, after we sing "Tonight, You Belong to Me," when I stand up you can hear a crack as I step on the ukulele.



@SteveMartinToGo

@BettyBuckley

My absolutely "nothing" day! Ahhhh. But maybe I'll start the Michael Connelly book. I am so excited about all the new movies comin' out!



@pennjillette

I don't ever touch my hair unless I'm going on stage. I don't look in mirrors. This is the way I look. I'll try to remember to smile



@SethMacFarlane

I wonder what President the corporations are gonna buy us next year!

Miley Cyrus says her twins are real



► Miley Cyrus

After turning heads in a low-cut dress at CNN's recent Heroes gala, Miley Cyrus is fighting back against speculation that she's had breast augmentation surgery.

"Thank you

for the compliment but these babies are all mine," she posted to Twitter in response to the claims.

"I wish they'd realize you don't have to be fake to be beautiful." ● METRO

Put wine love into words



PETER ROCKWELL
LIQUIDASSETS@EASTLINK.CA
TWITTER: @THEREALWINEGUY

When I was a young wine expert in training, there was no Internet. If you wanted to learn anything about anything, you had to look it up in a book.

Back in the day there wasn't a wine scribe more famous than Hugh Johnson — a gregarious Brit with a casual way of delivery on vino that paved the way for today's first person blogger culture.

Johnson is still writing up a storm with his Pocket Wine Book 2012 (Mitchell Beazley, \$16.99), the undisputed bible for any wine lover on the go. Ever the literary entrepreneur, this year he's created a Wine Journal (Mitchell Beazley, \$17.99) that will allow vinophiles to write their own reviews and keep track of what they're putting in their mouths.

The journal would make a great Christmas gift, especially when paired with a wine worth writing about. France's Père Anselme La Fiole du Pape Châteauneuf-du-Pape (\$35.49 - \$39.50)

is a non-vintage blend of up to 13 grapes with a rustic, dark fruited personality perfect for holiday drinking.

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Get sweet on Hanukkah

▶ Bake up some delicious treats inspired by the upcoming Jewish holiday

It might seem that getting eight nights worth of presents is the best thing about Hanukkah, but it isn't. The doughnuts are.

In the U.S., Canada and Europe, crispy, fried potato latkes are the best known food for celebrating the legendary miracle of one day's worth of oil that burned in the temple for eight days. But puffy doughnuts called sufganiyot (which means "sponge," describing texture) can rival potato pancakes in popularity, especially in Israel.

Preparation:

1 In medium bowl, whisk flour, baking soda and salt. Set aside. In small saucepan over medium, heat milk until steaming. Remove pan from heat and add buttermilk. Pour mix into bowl of stand mixer fitted with dough hook. Whisk in yeast and sugar. Let stand 5 mins.

2 Coat large bowl with vegetable oil; set aside.

3 Add flour mix to milk mix and mix on low until dry ingredients are moistened and form ball, about 3 mins. Increase speed to medi-

um and continue mixing 2 mins. Dough will be quite sticky. Transfer dough to prepared bowl, cover with plastic wrap and set aside in a

draft-free spot. Let rise until doubled in size, about 1 hour.

4 Fill deep sauté pan with 7.5 cm (3 inches) of oil. Heat over medium to 190 C (375 F). Line large plate with paper towels.

5 Lightly flour clean work surface. Turn dough out onto surface. Dust top of dough with flour, press to flatten. Fold dough in half and tuck ends

Fillings

To fill the Sufganiyot, use either a syringe-like pastry filling tool or slice open one side with a paring knife and use a spoon.

- ▶ A few slices of fresh banana and a generous spoonful of hot fudge.
- ▶ Ricotta cheese mixed with chopped walnuts, golden raisins and a drizzle of honey.
- ▶ Cream cheese topped with some chunky strawberry jam.
- ▶ A chocolate-nut spread (such as Nutella), topped with chopped peanuts and marshmallow spread.

under to create a ball. Dust with flour again and use rolling pin to roll dough into roughly a 28-by-43-cm (11-by-17-inch) rectangle about 5 mm (1/4 inch) thick.

6 Using sharp knife, cut dough lengthwise into 4 equal strips, then cut horizontally, at angle, to create 24 or 48 diamond-shaped pieces.

7 Working in batches, carefully drop pieces of dough into hot oil, being careful not to crowd pan. Fry, turning often with slotted spoon, until puffed and golden, 2 mins. Transfer to plate to drain while frying remaining Sufganiyot. Fill as desired. Serve dusted with powdered sugar.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ This recipe makes 24 large or 48 small Sufganiyot.

Ingredients:

- 1 l plus 50 ml (4 1/4 cups) bread flour, plus more for dusting work surface
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) baking soda
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) milk

- 300 ml (1 1/4 cups) buttermilk
- 20 ml (4 tsp) dry active yeast
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) sugar
- Vegetable oil, for frying
- Powdered sugar, for dusting

3
life

Sufganiyot tips



• Be patient and give the yeast dough plenty of time to rise, wrapped in plastic in the refrigerator.

• If you want to be really traditional, use extra-virgin olive oil for frying.

• Use a frying thermometer to monitor the oil temperature. Cool oil will give you greasy results.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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4
sports

Quoted



“There’s no need to talk about trades or what’s on ESPN or in the newspaper. There’s no need to bring it on the court.”

MAGIC CENTRE DWIGHT HOWARD. HOWARD SAID THURSDAY THAT HIS TRADE REQUEST HASN’T BEEN WITHDRAWN, A DAY AFTER MAGIC GENERAL MANAGER OTIS SMITH SHOOK OFF QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT OFFERS HE’D RECEIVED, AND SAID THAT TRADE DISCUSSIONS INVOLVING HIM “COULD GO TO THE END OF THE SEASON.”



Scan code for more sports news.



GREGORY SHAMUS/GETTY IMAGES

► Milan Michalek is out with a concussion, part of what his agent calls an “epidemic” afflicting the NHL.

Call for action on concussion issue

► Hockey agent urges NHL, teams to do something about ‘epidemic’

Supporter

At least one NHL general manager agrees with Allan Walsh, telling *The Canadian Press* privately this week he believes measures need to be taken to slow the game down.

The rhetoric around concussions in the NHL is on the rise along with the number of high-profile players suffering from one.

Agent Allan Walsh of Octagon Sports, who represents concussed league goal-scoring leader Milan Michalek, believes the issue has become an “epidemic” and called on the league to do more to address it.

“Clearly, the NHL is in the throes of a concussion epidemic,” Walsh said Thursday. “Only time will tell how severe the long-term health ramifications will be for concussed NHL players. With the economic incentive to make NHL hockey more exciting, the league worked diligently to increase the speed of the game. With increased

speed necessarily comes increased collision.

“The results as it relates to player safety are self-evident.”

Deputy commissioner Bill Daly scoffed at that suggestion.

“For people to suggest that the last seven to 10 days and the experience we’ve had and some of the names that are out should somehow materially alter

That would likely involve reversing some of the once-celebrated changes that came out of the 2004-05 lockout — such as removing the trapezoid behind the goal or reinstating the red-line for two-line passes. It could also include expanding the rink size.

our approach to this issue is ridiculous,” he said.

The spotlight returned to hockey’s hot-button issue on Monday when Sidney Crosby announced that he’d suffered a setback in his return to action and got even more intense with a string of similar diagnoses in the days that followed.

Michalek was injured Tuesday night after colliding with a teammate, join-

ing the NHL’s leading scorer (Claude Giroux) and its reigning rookie of the year (Jeff Skinner).

Other stars like Mike Richards, Kris Letang and Marc Staal are also on the sidelines. In all, players earning more than \$50 million combined this season are currently out with head injuries.

However, the number of total concussions through the same period last season is actually down, according to Daly.

“We’ve probably had periods of time where we’ve had as many concussions, but they weren’t ... as high-profile players,” he said. “The last thing anybody wants to do is overreact to a very short snapshot in time.” **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Pronger done for season

The Philadelphia Flyers say captain Chris Pronger will miss the rest of the season with “severe post-concussion syndrome.”

The decision was made after the 37-year-old was examined in Pittsburgh by doctors John Maroon and Mickey Collins, who also treated Penguins star Sidney Crosby.

“Chris will continue to receive treatments and therapy with the hope that he can get better,” Flyers general manager Paul Holmgren said in a release Thursday.

Pronger has missed the Flyers’ last 11 games since coming down with what the team first described as a virus and later changed to post-concussion symptoms.

The bruising defenceman also took a stick in the eye from Toronto’s Mikhail Grabovski in late October that resulted in facial trauma and caused him to miss six games.

Pronger has one goal and 11 assists in 13 games this season.

The Dryden, Ont., native, who won gold medals with Canada at the 2002 and 2010 Olympics, signed a seven-year contract with the Flyers in 2009.

He also won the Stanley Cup with the Anaheim Ducks in 2007.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Chris Pronger

JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES

Opposition zeroing in on Leafs’ top duo

The tremendous success enjoyed by the Maple Leafs’ one-two scoring punch of Phil Kessel and Joffrey Lupul hasn’t surprised Toronto coach Ron Wilson.

“I thought it (their chemistry) was almost instantaneous last year when Lupul

came in,” Wilson said on Thursday after practice at the MasterCard Centre in Etobicoke. “Lupul is developing into more of a power forward.”

“You want to play him with someone who is a threat all the time and

that’s what Phil has been.”

In Friday’s crucial North-east Division matchup in Buffalo, the Leafs’ Kessel could regain the NHL points and goal-scoring leads with concussions sidelining current points leader Claude Giroux of

Philadelphia (39) and leading scorer Milan Michalek of Ottawa (19).

As of Thursday, Kessel was second in points with 36, and tied for second in goals with Tampa’s Steven Stamkos and Chicago’s Jonathan Toews at 18.

Kessel admits teams are focusing more on his line than earlier in the season.

“Yeah, it’s actually becoming harder as the year progresses to get things going,” Kessel said. “We’re trying to find ways around that.” **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Sports in brief

Riders name new coach

CFL. The second time around was the charm for Corey Chamblin.

Chamblin was hired Thursday as the head coach of the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

The 34-year-old interviewed for the post following the 2010 season but the job went to Greg Marshall. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Bears' Hurd behind bars

NFL. Chicago Bears wide receiver Sam Hurd was locked up in federal custody Thursday as his stunned teammates

learned he had been charged with trying to set up a drug-dealing network following his arrest with more than a pound of cocaine. U.S. Magistrate Young Kim ordered Hurd held until at least Friday while prosecutors and defence attorneys work out bond details before he is sent to Texas to face charges. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Crawford a Trail Blazer

NBA. Free-agent guard Jamal Crawford has decided to join the Portland Trail Blazers.

Crawford, who was reportedly considering Sacramento and the Blazers, announced his choice on Twitter, posting "Rip city!!!"

The terms of the agreement Thursday were not clear. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Impact with post killed driver: Report

INDYCAR. Dan Wheldon was killed when his head hit a post in the fencing at Las Vegas Motor Speedway — contact that created a "non-survivable injury" to the two-time Indianapolis 500 winner.

The cause of death was revealed Thursday when IndyCar presented its findings of the Oct. 16 accident in the season finale.


Wheldon launched over spinning cars in the 15-vehicle crash and sailed approximately 100 metres into the catchfence.

The report finds several factors contributed to what became a "perfect storm," and no one reason could be singled out.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE PRO'S CORNER:

TIPS ON FITTING THE RIGHT SKATES



Try the skates on with socks, leave the skates unlaced and have the player stand up and tap the toe of the blade on the ground until they feel their toe on the toe cap. Then have them stand straight up and lean forward. You should be able to see a small space in the back of the skate, if you are able to fit 1 finger in then the skates are around one size too big.

If the player is young, it is good to have a little bit of room (1 finger) as they are going to grow into that extra space.

Skates are the most important piece of equipment that you will purchase for you or your child. Make sure there is good ankle support by squeezing both sides of the skate together.

Skates usually should last 1 to 1.5 seasons. When they start to break down, you'll notice the ankle area will become weak. At this time you should be looking to purchase a new or used pair.

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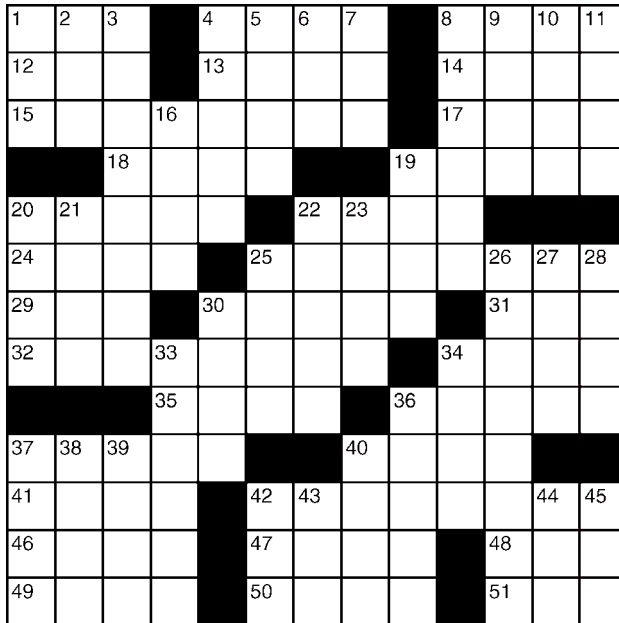
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BBB

Crossword

Across

1 Humongous
4 Unfriendly
8 Took to the skies
12 Commotion
13 Eye layer
14 Emanation
15 1849 California event
17 Commotion
18 Campus digs
19 Trusty mount
20 "Yippeel!"
22 Create
24 Equal
25 Shirk work
29 Mess up
30 Analogy mark
31 Have debts
32 Paris airport eponym
34 Winter transport
35 Guitars' smaller kin
36 Director Almodóvar
37 Put into words
40 Complaint
41 Stead
42 Source of wealth
46 Teensy bit
47 Vicinity
48 Junior
49 Former European capital
50 Sailing vessel
51 Day divs.
Down
1 Satchel
2 Bachelor's final utterance
3 Cohort of Behar and Hasselbeck
4 Pungent dish in In-



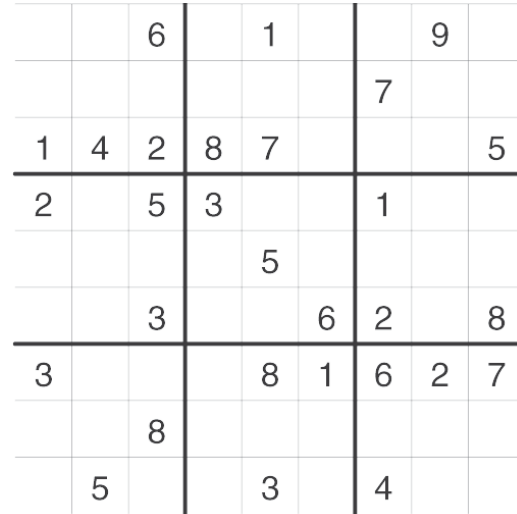
dian cuisine
5 Egg
6 "— Miserables"
7 Doo follower
8 Zip up, maybe
9 Troubadour's instrument
10 Great Lake
11 Actress Sela
16 Entryway
19 Epidermis
20 Newspaper page
21 Present
22 Shopping centers
23 Lotion additive
25 Beauty spot
26 Pepperidge Farms favorites
27 Basin accessory
28 Start over
30 Potential pickle, for short
33 Fall
34 Appear
36 Go by bicycle
37 Thick slice
38 One of The Jackson 5
39 A billion years (Var.)
40 Huffed and puffed
42 Festive

43 Man-mouse link
44 Neither mate
45 Type measures

Yesterday's answer



Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

3	2	5	9	6	4	7	8	1
8	1	9	2	7	3	4	6	5
4	7	6	8	5	1	9	2	3
7	9	3	6	1	8	5	4	2
2	8	4	3	9	5	1	7	6
6	5	1	4	2	7	8	3	9
1	6	2	7	8	9	3	5	4
5	4	7	1	3	6	2	9	8
9	3	8	5	4	2	6	1	7

Yesterday's answer



Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 It's a good day for working your way through a pile of work, but it is not a good day for taking risks.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Someone will come to you for advice today. Make sure he or she knows you can only help so much.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Someone you trust will let you down today but it could turn out to be a blessing in disguise.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 A great weight is about to be lifted from your shoulders and once it has, you'll feel lighter than air.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug. 23 Career issues and money matters could be a bit tense over the next 24 hours.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24-Sept. 22 All experience is good experience and a bad experience will teach you some important life lessons.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 If you throw yourself at the first challenge that comes along today, you'll be short of energy for a bigger challenge that is coming up.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You have talent to reach the top, but whether you have motivation will become clear in the next few days.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 The Sun remains in your sign until the 22nd. Between now and then, you must go all out to better yourself in every possible way.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 If you believe you have been hard done by, suffer in silence, for now.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Loved ones and work colleagues will make demands today. Don't do so much that you exhaust yourself.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. Like it or not, today you'll have to deal with someone for whom you have a distaste. **SALLY BROMPTON**

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1. Removed bush on the left side of image. 2. Removed tunnel behind the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox. 3. Removed brick from bridge above the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox. 4. Added tree above the bridge. 5. Removed stripe in the road. 6. Added a rock below the bridge. 7. Added an indent to the top of the bridge. 8. Removed a brick in the bridge to the right of the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox. 9. Added grass to the right of the road. 10. Turned on the fog lights on the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox



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